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FAMILY
HISTORY
THOMAS

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AN AMERICAN FAMILY

The Story of the Thomases of Peter's Creek, Pennsylvania

and

Their Descendants

1740 - 1985

By

BIRDELLA BUCHHOLZ KELLEY
JOSEPH HOWARD THOMAS
LOYCE KELLEY DRYDEN

Richard
Thank you a million
for all the help you
gave Howard & me.
Loyce

His weight varied from 140 to 120 pounds. He had blonde hair, which thinned, but he was never completely bald. His eyes were blue. In his later years he wore glasses and had a partial plate. He had a mild case of psoriasis, and suffered severely each fall with hay fever.

He was aged 63 years, 1 month and 16 days at his death.

Loyce Kelley Dryden
1938

Alexander Dryden - 1945

Chapter V : The Children of Michael, Sr. and Agnes Thomas

According to the book, HISTORY OF WAYNE COUNTY. OHIO, Michael and Agnes Thomas were the parents of seven children. We will tell you about the lives of four of them in detail in this chapter. Of the other three, our knowledge is sketchy. The five children of which we are quite certain were:

Leverton, born in 1798
Jonathan, born in 1807
Hugh, born in 1809
Martha, born in 1812
Michael, Jr. born in 1814

The two of whom we are uncertain were:

Mary (Ann) born in 1804
David, birth date unknown

MARY ANN SOMERLOTT

We know there was a MARY THOMAS because she is mentioned in her grandmother's will. We believe this "Mary" to be MARY ANN SOMERLOTT, who is buried, along with her husband, SEBASTIAN SOMERLOTT, in the same grave-row as the Jonathan Thomas family in Alvarado Cemetery. We contacted one of the descendants of Mary Ann---a man named DALE SOMERLOTT of rural Metz, Indiana---thru Mrs. Hicks, and talked to him. Dale has a family Bible, but he could not connect the Somerlotts to the Thomases.

According to Dale's Bible, Mary Ann was born on December 4, 1804. She was married to Sebastian Somerlott, who was born on September 8, 1789. They were the parents of nine children:

Elizabeth, born January 8, 1823
John, born April 4, 1824
Jonas, born June 22, 1829
Sarah, born February 25, 1830
George, born February 27, 1831
Mary R., Born May 14, 1833
Valentine, born July 18, 1835 (died in the Civil War)
FRanklin, born March 22, 1838 (great-grandfather of Dale Somerlott, owner of the Bible)
Andrew, born September 2, 1840

Mary Ann and Sebastian Somerlott both have gravestones. They read:

MARY ANN
wife
Sebastian Sommerlott
died
December 28, 1886
Aged 82 years, 24 das.

SEBASTIAN SOMMERLOTT
died May 18, 1874
aged 74 years, 6 mos. 10 das.

DAVID THOMAS

No where in all the literature we have read is DAVID THOMAS ever mentioned as being a son of Michael, Sr. and Agnes. We would never have suspected he ever lived at all except that we found a David Thomas buried beside Agnes in Fountain Cemetery. His stone had been broken off at some time or other, so only a portion of it is above ground and readable. This portion states that he died on September 13, 1834. If he is the son of Michael and Agnes he must have been a fairly young man when he died. Perhaps he died in a farm accident. Because he passed away only a couple of years after the Thomases came to Hancock County, he was completely forgotten about by the time the authors of HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO came along in 1886 to list the sons of Michael and Agnes on Page 507. We found that a David Thomas was married in Wayne County to LELAH WADE. The marriage is on record in Probate Court at Wooster, Ohio, Volume 2, Page 34.

"State of Ohio, Wayne County. I, Oliver Day, a Justice of the peace within and for said County do hereby certify that by virtue of license issued from the Clerk of Wayne County I joined together in the holy State of Matrimony David Thomas and Lelah Wade on the 30th day of May 1822. Given under my hand and seal this 30th day of May 1822

Oliver Day
Justice Peace"

We also found David Thomas in the 1830 federal census living in East Union Township, Wayne County, Ohio. In his family were two males, one under five years of age and one aged 20-30 years, who would be himself, and one female aged 20-30 years, who would be Lelah. By the time the 1840 census rolled around, he had passed away.

MARTHA THOMAS

The only reason we know there was ever a MARTHA THOMAS is the mention made of her birth in the book, HISTORY OF WAYNE COUNTY. We have not learned anything further than that about her.

LIVERTON THOMAS

LIVERTON THOMAS was born on March 27, 1798, according to information given us on his tombstone. (1) We are fairly confident that his birth year was 1798, as he was aged 52 years when the federal census was taken in Washington Township, Hancock County on August 12, 1850 (Page 843)

Michael Thomas, Sr. was living in Washington County, Pennsylvania

in 1798, so that is probably where Liverton was born. His death record on file with the Probate Court of Seneca County, Ohio, gives his place of birth as being in Pennsylvania (Vol. 2, Page 12 of Records of Deaths). Except for the fact that Jayne Burt has sown some seeds of suspicion that Michael Thomas, Sr. was once married to a woman named ELIZABETH, we would assume that Agnes Thomas was his mother. As far as we know there is no written record of his mother's name. We first find Liverton appearing on record in the 1800 federal census under the name of Michael Thomas, as being one of two males under ten years of age. We are uncertain as to whom the other boy was. Perhaps he was a child who never grew to adulthood. Or he may have been a visitor in the household. Or he may have been the David Thomas buried in Fountain Cemetery.

Liverton next appears in the year 1811, aged 13 years old, in Greene Township, Wayne County. We are told that he was married to Anne Wade by "Priest" Jones in 1815. Theirs was the first wedding in Greene Township. (2)

Anne was born on December 1, 1798. (3) We believe she was the daughter of JOHN WADE, a pioneer settler in Wayne County, Ohio. The federal census of 1850 says that she was born in Virginia.

As we are well aware from our research of other family members, Liverton and Anne lived in Wayne County until 1832, when the whole kit and kaboodle of Thomases moved to Hancock County. We are told in HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO (Warner, Beers and Co.) that:

> "Michael Thomas and wife and sons LIVERTON, MICHAEL, HUGH AND JONATHAN came here from Wayne County, Ohio in the spring of 1832. The parents settled on the northwest quarter of Section 3, and LIVERTON, who was then married, on the southwest quarter of Section 2. The latter was elected justice of the peace at an election held in Washington July 21, 1832." (4)

Liverton was thirty-four years old when he moved to Hancock County. He and Anne were the parents of several children by this time. (5) He was a farmer all of his life. (6) He must have been a quite wealthy man for his day. In 1870, when the federal census was taken, his combined real and personal property amounted to $13,316. Considering that you could hire a man for a dollar a day, and build a eight or ten room house for $2,000, this represented a small fortune.

Liverton wrote a will, which is on file with the Probate Court of Seneca County, Ohio. (7) At the time that he wrote the will he was 77 years of age. We learn from this will that he owned a house and lot. He does not list his other property, but directs that it be sold and the proceeds divided into eight equal parts. These parts were then distributed to his children and grandchildren according to his wishes.

Anne Wade Thomas died on October 4, 1872. She was aged 73 years, 10 months and 4 days according to the information on her tombstone in Fountain Cemetery at Fostoria, Ohio. She is buried on the Liverton Thomas lot. Lot 256, Section A, Position No. 2. Liverton is buried on the same lot, except his grave is in position No. 1. Others buried on his lot are: ELIZABETH THOMAS (1869), CLINTON LOCY (1864), JOHN M. LOCY (1864), CYRUS M. THOMAS (1864), DAVID THOMAS (1861), DAVID THOMAS (1834), AGNES THOMAS (1839) and MARIE THOMAS (no date). These names and dates are from the Plat Book of Fountain Cemetery. (8)

FOOTNOTES

1. Liverton's tombstone says he died January 17, 1878, aged 79 years, 9 months and 22 days. This is also the date in the Death Records of Seneca County, Ohio. Using his death date and his age at time of death, we calculated his birth date to be March 27, 1798.

2. See HISTORY OF WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO, by Douglas, page 680. "Priest Jones'" full name was Thomas Griffith Jones. He was a Baptist minister, born in South Wales, and evidently a quite prominent man in the area around Wooster, Ohio, where he settled around 1812. However, he DID NOT marry Liverton and Anne Wade. Records on file with the Clerk of Probate Court, Wayne County. Ohio, Vol. 1, Page 20 show this:

> State of Ohio, Wayne County ss: I Oliver Day Sen. a Justice of the Peace within and for Wayne County do hereby certify that by virtue of a license issued from the Clerk of Wayne County I joined together in the holy State of Matrimony Liverton Thomas and Ann Wade on the 7th day of May 1818. Given under my hand and seal this 16th day of June 1818.
>
> Oliver Day Sen.

   Oliver Day---called Squire Day---was one of the very first settlers in Wayne County. He settled in East Union Township, having come originally from Vermont. Douglas says that he and his companions were the "first introduction of the New England element" into Wayne County, arriving there in 1809.

3. We calculated the day of her birth from her age at the time of her death.

4. According to records on file with the County Recorder's Office of Hancock County, Ohio, Liverton Thomas purchased three parcels of land in Washington Township from the United States Government. We can only give you the volume and page number of one. If you are interested you might obtain a copy of the land patent for the other two from the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. Two of the parcels

---the West 1/2 of the Southwest quarter of Section 2 (80 acres), and the East 1/2 of the Southeast quarter of Section 3 (80 acres) were entered on page 86 of the Entry Book of Hancock County, June 15, 1831, without volume and page numbers. The book shows that Liverton was a resident of Wayne County, Ohio at the time. Immediately above Liverton's name in the Entry Book appears the name of his dad, Michael Thomas.

Besides these two parcels of land, Liverton also purchased 80 acres of land from the United States in 1835---West 1/2 of the Northeast quarter of Section 28 (Vol. 142, page 62, April 21, 1835). Also on April 23, 1835, Liverton purchased for $600 from John and Elizabeth Young, the Northwest quarter of Section 2 (Vol. 1, page 470).

Michael Thomas, Sr. purchased the West 1/2 of the Northeast quarter of Section 2 (80.97 acres), and the East 1/2 of the Northwest quarter of Section 3 (81.16 acres) also on June 15, 1831. He, too, is shown on the Entry Book as being a resident of Wayne County, Ohio. There is no volume or page number given.

5. From the sources that we have available to us, it would appear that Liverton and Anne were the parents of twelve children. In fact, Maria Thomas' obituary in the June, 1911 Fostoria Review-Times says she was "one of a family of 12 children". We will give you what facts we have on these children.

   A. ENOS W. THOMAS, according to his tombstone, was born in 1824 and died in 1895. Minnie Wade of Fostoria, Ohio told us his wife was Ann P. Hathaway. Information on her tombstone says she was born in 1828 and died in 1896. Ann Hathaway and Enos Thomas are both buried on his lot in Fountain Cemetery. We can only give you the names of three of their children: Tina Thomas was born in 1849 and died in 1925. She is buried on her father's lot in Fountain Cemetery. She has a stone. Avis E. Thomas, who died April 3, 1866 was aged either 13 years, or 3 years (the stone is deteriorated), 6 months and 9 days. She lies in the sixth grave on the Enos Thomas lot according to the plat book. The third child was Jessie Thomas, the mother of Nelson Poe of Fostoria, Ohio.

   B. MARIA (MARIE) THOMAS, we are assuming was born in Wayne County, Ohio. She was born November 2, 1823. When she was about ten years old, she went with the rest of the tribe to Hancock County. She spent most of the rest of her life in Hancock County, in the vicinity of Fostoria. Apparently she never married, but lived in the home of her father and mother. According to the terms of her father's will, she was to have the use of his house and lot for as long as George Wade should live, plus one year, for taking care of the old man. George Wade is something of a conundrum to us. At first we were not sure if he were Anne's brother or her father, but decided that he must be her brother, since he

was aged 64 years in 1860 when the federal census was taken. (The census of 1860 says George Wade was "insane". It is our guess that he was more than likely only mentally retarded, or perhaps only senile.) At any rate, if he were 64 in 1860 he would have been born in 1796---two years before Anne. We finally concluded that he and Anne were the children of John Wade, who was among the first settlers in Wayne County, Ohio. We haven't been able to decide, however, if George Wade was also known as George Washington "Washie" Wade, or if Wash Wade was another man altogether. Wash Wade is buried on the Enos Thomas lot in Fountain Cemetery, but he has no stone. Minnie Wade recalls seeing "Washie" Wade, who was a relative of her husband, Ora, at some time before her husband's death in 1935. This would seem to indicate that George Wade and Wash Wade were two different men, since George Wade would have been 100 years old in 1896.

We have located Maria in the federal census of 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 in the household of Liverton Thomas. When Liverton died she received ALL the household goods; enough provisions for one year; $500 in cash; and one cow. Plus this she received one-eighth of the remainder of her father's estate. She lived the last ten years of her life in the household of Howard Spakey in Albany, Indiana, where she died on June 25, 1911, aged 87 years, 7 months, and 23 days. She is buried on Liverton's lot in Fountain Cemetery in Grave #8. She has no marker.

C. JOHN B. THOMAS, we figured out from the dates on a tombstone in Fountain Cemetery, was born on October 16, 1828. While his name is on this stone on the Liverton Thomas lot, the plat book shows that he is not actually buried there. The inscription on the stone reads, "John B., son of L. and A. Thomas died at Sacramento City November 16, 1850 aged 22 years, 1 month". We have no idea what Sacramento City the stone refers to, unless it is Sacramento, California and John went there to the Gold Rush. Perhaps he was killed in an accident or, since there was an "absence of civil government (in California) crime and violence were endemic" he may have been killed in a brawl. or murdered for his money. A cousin of John's (John Wesley Thomas) also went to California seeking his fortune in gold. Maybe the two cousins went together.

D. CYRUS M. THOMAS. A stone on the Liverton Thomas lot in Fountain Cemetery tells us that Cyrus was "a son of L & A Thomas, a member of Co. I, 164th Regiment ONG (Ohio National Guard) died at Washington, D. C. July 24, 1864 aged 31 years, 9 months". This would seem to indicate that he was born on October 24, 1832. In a ROSTER OF OHIO TROOPS, page 341, a copy of which we got from the Ohio Historical Society, we found Cyrus M. Thomas. aged 31, a Corporal, entered the Service of Company I, 164th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on May 2, 1864 for 100 days and died July 24, 1864 in a hos-

pital at Fort Stone, Virginia. In an HONOR ROLL OF OHIO SOLDIERS, page 762 (also from the Ohio Historical Society), we found Cyrus M. Thomas. Corporal, Company I, died July 24, 1864 at Fort Strong, Virginia and was buried at Arlington, Virginia. Records on Cyrus M. Thomas, which we got from the National Archives and Records Service, show C. M. Thomas, Corporal, 164th Ohio National Guard, was born in Hancock County, Ohio. In May, 1864, he was aged 31 years. He was a farmer. He enlisted for 100 days at Fostoria, Ohio. He had blue eyes, red hair, a light complexion and was 5 feet 9 inches tall. He died of dysentery. A letter from the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia in reply to a letter from us, stated flatly that Cyrus M. Thomas was NOT buried in Arlington National Cemetery. However, in a letter from the Department of the Army, Office of the Adjutant General, by the Chief of the Cemetery Division, Casualty and Memorial Affairs, we were told:

> "Interment records available in this office confirm information furnished you by the Superintendent's Office at Arlington National Cemetery which shows no interment by name of the remains of a Civil War soldier Cyrus M. Thomas or C. M. Thomas. However, Volume I of the ROLL OF HONOR, prepared by the Quartermaster General's office, War Department....indicates that a Private C. M. Thomas, Company I, 164th Ohio Regiment* interred in Arlington National Cemetery shortly after its establishment as a national cemetery in June 1864. Graves...were initially marked by wooden headboards... and there was always the possibility (the marker) might have been destroyed...with the result that the grave of Cyrus M. Thomas may now be among the 4,724 graves in Arlington Cemetery marked as unknowns." *died on 25 July 1864 and was among the Union Soldiers

The plat book of Fountain Cemetery shows that Cyrus M. Thomas lies in Grave #6 on the Liverton Thomas lot. More than likely he does lie in Fountain Cemetery, but since we have not been able to locate any descendants of Liverton and Anne with any knowledge of their family, we have no written proof that he does. Later on in this story, you will read about the same problem of where the body of the soldier lies, in the write-up on Cyrus' cousin Hiram W. Thomas.

Cyrus was married. His wife's name was Jane. When the census of 1860 was taken in July of that year, Cyrus M. Thomas (aged 27. a farmer born in Ohio and with personal property worth $200) was living with his wife Jane Y. Thomas (aged 17 and born in Indiana) on the farm next to his father's. More than likely this was the 160 acres his dad bought from the Youngs in 1835. Cyrus is mentioned in his father's will. The will indicates that Cyrus was the father of one child, Olivia A. Thomas.

E. DAVID THOMAS, we read on a stone in Fountain Cemetery, a son of Liverton and Anne, was a member of Company E, 19th Regiment OVI, and that he died at Camp Neviad, Kentucky on November 23, 1861, aged 27 years, 2 months and 23 days, which would make his birth date August 31, 1833. According to the plat book he is actually buried in Fountain Cemetery in Grave #7 of the Liverton Thomas lot. The National Archives and Records Service told us they had no record of David Thomas in Co. E, 19th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The Ohio State Historical Society was unable to find him in the 19th Regiment of OVI. David is not mentioned in his father's will. It is impossible for us to ascertain from the wording of the will if either of two persons mentioned (i.e. Noah Willis Thomas and Alice A. Russel) are the children of David.

F. ELIZABETH THOMAS, has a stone on which is written that she is a daughter of L. & A. Thomas and that she died April 13, 1869, aged 32 years, 9 months. This would make her birth to have been in July, 1836. The plat book shows she is buried on the Liverton Thomas lot and lies in Grave #3. On the plat she is called Elizabeth Thomas, which would indicate that she never married.

G. CELIA A. THOMAS according to our calculation would have been born on September 17, 1838. We found her in the 1850 federal census in the household of Liverton Thomas. She was eleven years old. We also found her in the 1860 census still living at home. The census says she was 22 years old, born in Ohio and teaching school. Celia married a man named John M. Locey (or Locy). She was the mother of at least one child, Clinton W. Locey. He died on May 15, 1864, aged 11 months. He has a stone, and the plat book shows he lies in Grave #4 on his grandfather, Liverton's, lot.

Celia died on January 9, 1864. We surmise her death was caused by the complications of childbirth six months before, but we are only guessing. A badly worn stone on Liverton's lot says she was aged 25 years, 3 months and 23 days at her death. (We are uncertain of the 3 months, but were still able to read the 25 years and the 23 days quite clearly.) It is a curious thing, but altho she has a stone on her father's lot, the cemetery plat does not show her buried there. Could she and Clinton lie in the same grave? Since she died first, why is his name and not hers on the plat, if that is the case? Or, does she actually lie in Grave #5 instead of her husband, whose name is on the plat as lying in Grave #5? Or is she buried in Grave #4 on the Enos Thomas lot---which is empty on the plat?

What we know about John M. Locey came from records on file with the National Archives and Records Service. He was a farmer, born in Pennsylvania. He was about 5 feet 11 inches

tall, had a dark complexion, gray eyes and black hair. On October 5, 1864, he enlisted for one year in Company H, 49th Regiment of Ohio Veteran Volunteers. This was his second tour of duty in the service. He was 29 years old at his second enlistment. He saw action and went in pursuit of Hood in the winter of 1864. He died of typhoid fever at San Antonio, Texas on August 25, 1865. He has a stone on the Liverton Thomas lot which says he died at San Antonio, Texas on August 25, 1865, aged 31 years. He first served his country from April 23, 1861 to August 12, 1861.

H. EUNICE ELIZA THOMAS was born in Hancock County on March 24, 1841. She was nine years old and living in her father's household when the 1850 federal census was taken. She is mentioned in her father's will as Eunice E. Benham. She died on January 15, 1903. She is buried in Section D, Lot 668, Grave 2 in Fountain Cemetery. Other persons buried on this lot are: George Benham, his daughter, Lillian Benham, Ralph Benham, and an infant child of George Benham's. George Benham lies in Grave #3. He died on May 25, 1910, aged 69 years, 6 months and 3 days. Lillian Benham died on December 26, 1922 at the age of 41. Lillian lies in Grave #4. Ralph Benham, who lies in Grave #5, died on March 7, 1938 at the age of 65. The child died in 1879 and lies in Grave #1. It would appear that Eunice and George were residents of Fostoria, as the records of Fountain Cemetery show that Eunice last resided there before her death.

I. CORDELIA C. THOMAS was born on May 15, 1844, according to our calculations. She was seven years old when the federal census of 1850 was taken. She was living in the household of Liverton and Anne, naturally. She was attending school. We found her still living at home, aged 17, when the 1860 census was taken. Ten years later when the 1870 census taking time rolled around, she was still living at home. By this time she was 27 years old. All of the census say that she was born in Ohio, and we are assuming that she was born in Hancock County. Also living in Liverton and Anne's household on June 30, 1870, when the census taker came around, was a Philip Spackey. This young man was twenty-two years old. The census calls him a laborer on the farm, which we are interpreting to mean that he was Liverton and Anne's "hired man". He was born in Ohio. Both of his parents were foreign born. He could read and write. We feel that Cordelia must have married Philip Spackey. She is mentioned in her father's will as Cordelia C. Spackey. Cordelia died on August 9, 1881, aged 37 years, 2 months and 20 days. She is buried in Fountain Cemetery in Section E, Lot 753. Grave #1. Her name is spelled "Spackey" in the cemetery records. In her father's will her name is spelled Spakey. Also buried on Lot 753 is an Ida R. Spackey. Accord-

ing to a stone erected on the lot, both Cordelia and Ida were the wives of Philip Spackey. More than likely, Cordelia and Philip were the parents of Howard Spackey with whom Maria Thomas made her home in her old age.

J. MARY THOMAS, we are assuming was a child of Liverton and Anne. She is mentioned in Liverton's will as MARY COLE, and is presumed to be his child as she received a full share of his estate. She was NOT living in Liverton and Anne's household when the 1850 census was taken, so she was probably already married.

K. WILLIAM THOMAS was not listed in Liverton and Anne's household in the 1850 census. but since he also is to receive a full share of Liverton's estate, we are assuming he was one of the twelve children. He died in 1884, according to what is written in the plat book. He is buried on the Enos W. Thomas lot in Fountain Cemetery. He lies in Grave #5. He has no stone.

L. PHEBA J. THOMAS is in Liverton's will as "my daughter, Pheba J. Brian". She was not listed in Liverton's household in the 1850 census. We believe that she was already married to a man named Thomas Bryant. She was married to Thomas Bryant on November 5, 1846 in Hancock County, so we have been told.

6. This is so indicated in the federal censuses.

7. If you are wondering why Liverton's will was filed for probate in Seneca County rather than Hancock County. it is because he was living in Fostoria at the time of his death. He probably moved to town when he retired from farming.

8. Next to the Liverton Thomas lot is the lot of Enos W. Thomas (Lot #257, Section A). On this lot as listed in the plat book are: Wash Wade, Celia Abbott, Charlotte Abbott (Minnie Wade told us the Abbotts were two "old maid school teachers", friends of the family who were given burial space by the Thomases), Tina A. Thomas, William Thomas (1884), A. E. Thomas (1866), Mrs. E. Thomas, and E. W. Thomas. There are stones on the Enos W. Thomas lot for four people: Avis E., Enos W., Ann P., and Tina Thomas. There are stones on the Liverton Thomas lot for Cyrus M, Liverton, Elizabeth, Anne, David, Agness, John B., and David Thomas. Also Celia A., Clinton W. and John M. Locy. (Spelled Locey on John's stone.)

LIVERTON THOMAS IN THE FEDERAL CENSUS

1790	Not yet born
1800	In the household of Michael Thomas, Sr. (two years old)

1810 In Strabane Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania, in the household of Michael Thomas, Sr. (twelve years old)

1820 In East Union Township, Wayne County, Ohio in his own household. Page 161

1830 In East Union Township, Wayne County, Ohio in his own household. Page 68. His family consisted of:

1 male under 5 years (John)
1 male 5 to 10 years (Enos)
1 male 10 to 15 years (William?)
1 male 30 to 40 years (himself)
2 females 5 to 10 years (Maria and Pheba or Mary)
1 female 30 to 40 years (Anne)

1840 In Washington Township, Hancock County, Ohio. His family consisted of:

2 males 5 to 10 years - David (7) & Cyrus (8)
1 male 10 to 15 years - John (12)
1 male 15 to 20 years - Enos (18)
1 male 40 to 50 years - Himself (42)
2 females 0 to 5 years- Celia (2), Elizabeth (4)
1 female 5 to 10 years- Pheba
1 female 10 to 15 years- Mary
1 female 15 to 20 years- Maria (17)
1 female 30 to 40 years- Anne (40)

1850 In Washington Township, Hancock County, Ohio Page 843. His family consisted of:

Liverton, aged 52, a farmer, worth $3000, born in Pennsylvania
Anne, aged 51, born in Virginia
Maria, aged 24, born in Ohio
Cyrus, aged 18, born in Ohio
David, aged 15, born in Ohio
Elizabeth, aged 13, born in Ohio
Celia, aged 11, born in Ohio
Eunice E., aged 9, born in Ohio
Cordelia C., aged 7, born in Ohio

1860 In Washington Township, Hancock County, Ohio Page 158 (Census taken July 24, 1860)

Liverton, aged 61, a farmer whose real property was worth $6400, and whose personal property was worth $958, born in Pennsylvania, able to read and write.
Anne, aged 61, born in Virginia, able to read

and write.
Maria, aged 36, born in Ohio, occupation "servant"
Elizabeth, aged 24, born in Ohio, occupation "servant"
Celia, aged 22, born in Ohio. occupation "teacher"
Emma E. (Eunice) aged 20, born in Ohio,"teacher"
Cordelia C.. aged 17, born in Ohio "servant"
William C. Cowley, aged 21, farmer, personal property worth $25, born in Ohio (probably the hired man)
George Wade, aged 64, born in Virginia, insane

1870 In Washington Township, Hancock County. Ohio. Page 27 (Census taken on June 30. 1870)

Liverton, aged 72, a farmer whose real estate was worth $11,840, with personal property worth $1,476. Born in Pennsylvania. He could read and write. His parents were native born Americans.
Anne, aged 71, a housekeeper, born in Virginia
Maria, aged 45, "at home" born in Ohio, could read and write
Cordelia, aged 27, "at home" born in Ohio, could read and write
Philip Spackey, aged 22, a "laborer on farm" (hired man), born in Ohio. both of whose parents were foreign born, could read and write and was a citizen of the United States.

1880 Liverton passed away in 1878.

JONATHAN THOMAS

Because Jonathan Thomas, Michael Thomas, Jr. and Hugh Thomas left Hancock County, Ohio and moved with their families to Indiana, we were able to establish their relationship more quickly than we were that of all three of them to Liverton Thomas, about whom you just read. Nevertheless, in the beginning of our research there was much doubt that these three men <u>were</u> brothers. All this confusion was caused by one of the sons of Jonathan, namely FLETCHER THOMAS, who wrote an autobiography, LIFE AND LABORS OF REV. FLETCHER THOMAS. In this book, the Reverend Mr. Thomas said:

"Concerning my great grand parents, but little knowledge has been transmitted to me, save that my paternal great grandfather was born in Wales, and came to this country in an early day. My grandfather, Liverton Thomas, was born in Pennsylvania in 1780. My father, Reverend Jonathan Thomas was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania in 1807. His

people were large and muscular, and most of them lived to an advanced age. When seventeen years of age, father came with his parents to Wayne County, Ohio, and there in 1825 was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Bacon. My father's family consisted of ten children, an account of whom will be given in another chapter."

Our probelm was this: we knew Leverton Thomas of Nottingham Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania had among his children two sons, one named Michael and one Leverton, Jr. Should we assume that Fletcher Thomas did not know which of these two men was his own grandfather? That did not seem possible, especially in view of the fact that he tells us his grandfather was born in 1780. If indeed, his grandfather was Leverton, Jr. he very well might have been born in 1780, since Michael, we knew was born in 1775.

However, all other evidence we had pointed to the fact that Jonathan Thomas was a son of Michael Thomas and not a son of Leverton Thomas, Jr. Even Fletcher was correctly aware that his father came to Wayne County, Ohio with his parents, although his age when coming there was not seventeen, but four. We could not reconcile what Fletcher Thomas said in his book with what we had learned from other family members. One piece of evidence we had was told to Howard by Johnathan Howard Wagner (now deceased) (1). Mr. Wagner said, "My mother was one of the youngest children of Jonathan Thomas who spent much of his time in his later years on our farm in Whitley County, Indiana. I remember him very well as I was 23 years old when he passed away in Hamilton, Steuben County, Indiana. HE OFTEN TALKED ABOUT HIS BROTHER HUGH and other relatives in Iowa and my mother's family always claimed the families in Iowa as our relatives. ...you can safely count that Jonathan Thomas and Hugh Thomas were brothers."

Another family member, Albert Delmar Thomas (2), also now deceased, wrote Howard, "...you show Enoch Thomas of Toledo, Tama County, Iowa WHO WAS A FIRST COUSIN OF MY FATHER CHARLES N. THOMAS with whom I was well acquainted and attended his funeral...." Albert Thomas also said, "(I) might say that I can remember my father speaking often of his uncle Jonathan Thomas."

Mrs. John Dale Thomas of Toledo, Iowa told Birdie in a letter dated March 17, 1961, "Dale says his great grandfather (i.e. Jonathan Thomas) and your great grandather (i.e. Hugh Thomas) were brothers."

And finally a fourth family member, Miss Ethel Thomas, of Lebo, Kansas (3) told us, "I have always understood that the two preachers, my grandfather Michael Thomas and Jonathan Thomas were brothers, else why would father always have spoken of his uncle Jonathan?" We concluded that, indeed, the Reverend Fletcher did NOT know who his own grandfather was and subsequent research

proved us right.

JONATHAN THOMAS was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania on February 25, 1807 (4), a son of Michael Thomas. Probably his mother was Agnes Thomas, but we have no written proof that she was. When Michael and Agnes Thomas moved to Wayne County from Washington County in 1811, he was only four years old; he grew up in Wayne County.

His growing up years must have been as wildly exciting in actuality as other little boys' are in day-dreams. Imagine tramping thru thick forests, seeing and tracking all kinds of wild animals, listening to hundreds of sweet-singing birds, enduring Indian-attack scares, attending log-cabin raisings, going on week-long trips to the flour mills through unspoiled wilderness---what a wonderful time and place to be a little boy!

Eventually he did grow up and was married to Elizabeth Bacon (5) whom Fletcher tells us was the daughter of Henry Bacon. Henry was a Revolutionary War soldier, so says Fletcher, and was born in Maryland. (6) Jonathan and Elizabeth were married on August 10, 1824, by Charles Scot. The marriage is not on record in Wayne County. Jonathan would have been seventeen years old and Elizabeth was twenty-one. She was born on August 22, 1803.

Jonathan and Elizabeth were the parents of ten children:

ENOCH and ELIZABETH (twins) born January 24, 1826 near Findlay, Ohio according to Fletcher. However, since the Thomases did not leave Wayne County until 1832 Fletcher is either mistaken, or Jonathan and Elizabeth preceded the others to Hancock County.
SALATHIEL MARK born Sunday, August 8, 1827
JOHN WESLEY born March 1, 1829
JOHN FLETCHER born February 8, 1831 (He says in his book that he was born in Hancock County, Ohio.)
CLEMENZA born March 21, 1833
ANGELINE born Sunday, February 22, 1835
JONATHAN RUSSELL BIGELOW born June 16, 1838
WILLIAM HENRY born December ___, 1840 (the photostat of Bible records from which we got our information was torn at this point, so we do not know on what day he was born).
HENRIETTA born September 15, 1842

After their marriage in 1824, Jonathan and Elizabeth continued to live in Wayne County until after the federal census of 1830 was taken. This we know in spite of anything the Reverend Fletcher may have said to the contrary. For one thing, in HISTORY OF STUEBEN COUNTY, INDIANA (Inter-State Publishing Company, Chicago, 1885, page 845), it is stated that John Wesley Thomas was born in Wayne County, Ohio on March 1, 1830. (You will notice that this date does not jibe with the Bible record.) Also, Howard found Jonathan Thomas in Wayne County, living in Greene Township, when

the 1830 federal census was taken (page 122). At this time his family consisted of one male 50-60 years of age, whom we think must have been Elizabeth's father, Henry; one male 20-30 years of age (Jonathan); one male 10-15 (we have no idea who this child was---he might have been someone visiting the family); three males under 5 years of age (Enoch, Salathiel, & John Wesley); one female 20-30 years of age (Elizabeth); and one female under five years of age (Enoch's twin, Elizabeth).

Jonathan and Elizabeth may have preceded Michael, Sr. and Agnes and the rest to Hancock County by a few months. We say this because Fletcher Thomas tells us he was born in Hancock County. We know he was born on February 8, 1831. We refuse to believe that he didn't know where he was born.

Jonathan Thomas's obituary in the RELIGIOUS TELESCOPE of March 31, 1897, tells us he "moved from Williams County, Ohio to Steuben County, Indiana in 1846". We don't know when he left Hancock County and moved to Williams County. Howard found him living in Richland Township, Steuben County, Indiana when the 1850 federal census was taken. His occupation was given as "United Brethern clergyman". He was 44 years old. Elizabeth was 47. The children at home were: Fletcher, aged 19; Clemenza, aged 16; Angeline, aged 15; William, aged 10; and Henrietta, aged 7.

When Jonathan first came to Richland Township, he located on land in the South end of the township. About ten years later he moved to Alvarado, Indiana, a small crossroads community of which nothing remains today except a church, a graveyard, Charlie Holt's store (now a residence), three farm houses, and a small brick building which was probably once a schoolhouse. (7)

Apparently he continued to live in Steuben County until after his wife died in 1863. Howard found in a book in the library at Fort Wayne that a Jonathan Thomas was married to a woman named Sarah Reynolds on November 13, 1864. We have found no written record that he was ever married to anyone but Elizabeth, except it does say in the HISTORY OF STEUBEN COUNTY that "He is now living with his third wife". The book was published in 1885. Lena Hicks, who was very interested in the Thomases, although she was no relation to them, told us that after he remarried he lived in Butler, Indiana.

Jonathan Thomas "gave his heart to God at the age of twelve years". We do not know when he decided to spend his life preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. His biography in HISTORY OF STEUBEN COUNTY tells us he was ordained "soon after his first marriage". (8)

He was one of the early itinerant ministers who "in pioneer

days were generally missionairies". These were men who followed civilization into the wilderness "believing that their devine commission required them to go wherever sinners were to be found"; in Jonathan Thomas's case even "into the Black Swamps of Ohio". These early ministers travelled by horseback, carrying their few necessities with them in saddlebags. The necessities consisted of a Bible, some notes on sermons, some dried beef and biscuits, and perhaps an extra clean shirt and some socks. They were fed and housed by the people they ministered to in their homes. These homes were the crudest of log cabins, which served as churches in winter and during the summer when a rainstorm came up. Between communities and sermons these pioneer preachers ate from their saddle bags and slept on the ground. (9)

The denomination the Reverend Mr. Thomas served for over sixty years was the Church of the United Brethern. He was evidently a powerful preacher. At revival meetings his "strong and musical" voice moved sinners to repentence. His obituary in THE STEUBEN REPUBLICAN of January 13, 1897, says he converted over seven thousand persons to the Christian Church and faith and persuaded over five thousand to join the Church of the United Brethern.

Any number of early churches were organized under his leadership. The Big Run United Brethern Church, near Butler, Indiana was organized by him in 1843. This small church was only recently disbanded after 135 years of continuous service to the rural community. In ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL ATLAS of STEUBEN COUNTY, IND. (1880) we read that "Elder Jonathan Thomas was the first United Brethern minister in this county". The article goes on to say that the United Brethern had no representation in Steuben County until Jonathan Thomas began travelling a circuit thru the Northeastern counties of Indiana in 1841. The article also says, "Elder Thomas resides at Butler, Indiana. For the past six years (1872-1880) he has labored as an evangelist in the States of Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa."

In a HISTORY OF ALVARADO CHURCH, we are told by Lena Hicks that although Reverend Jonathan Thomas was a United Brethern minister he was much "an admirer of John Wesley, who founded the Methodist Church". In fact, he so admired John Wesley that he named one of his sons after that great man. This is small wonder since we know he must have been much influenced by the Methodists who met at his father's house back there in Wayne County, Ohio so many years before.

Jonathan Thomas was called "Father Thomas" by the pioneers he served in Ohio, but the parishioners in Indiana called him Reverend Thomas. The circuit he rode in his ministry stretched from Maumee, Ohio on Lake Erie across Indiana to St. Joseph, Michigan.

In our search for information on Jonathan Thomas we had quite an

extensive correspondence with persons connected with the present United Brethern Church. One person told us of a minister who once had a parishioner who "had known Rev. Thomas....all (the minister) ever heard was that Rev. Thomas was an early Pioneer minister of the Church and a wonderful man.".

The Indiana Conference North of the Evangelical United Brethern Church told us that Jonathan Thomas transferred from the Sandusky Ohio Conference in 1846 and joined the Indiana Conference North.(10) From 1846 to 1848 he was assigned the St. Joseph District, from 1848-49 the Dayton Circuit, 1849 the St. Joseph Circuit, 1851-53 the Pleasant Lake Circuit, 1853-55 he was a presiding Elder, 1855-56 the Huntington Circuit and in 1856 he was superannuated, after which he was offered the option of transferring back to the Sandusky Conference or any he wished.

We are not students of the history of the United Brethern Church. but we do know that at some time or other the church was split, and "most of the United Brethern Churches through Northern Indiana disappeared". We also feel confident that just because he was retired by the church in 1856, Jonathan did not quit preaching. On page 147 of HISTORY OF ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA (Kingman Bros., Chicago, 1880) we are told, "In February, 1861 a class of this denomination (i.e. United Brethern) was organized at Hamilton with 50 constituent members. Rev. Jonathan Thomas was their pastor".

Fletcher Thomas tells us in his autobiography that his father "was a member of the General Conference that convened at Lebanon, Pennsylvania, in 1869".

During all this time Elizabeth must have had a very difficult task raising her children, as Jonathan, in his capacity of itinerant preacher, probably was gone a great deal of the time, bringing the good news of Christ, the Lord, to the backwoods communities and isolated cabins of the pioneers of Western Ohio, Northern Indiana, and Southern Michigan. No doubt she did it willingly and cheerfully. We are presuming that other family members must have aided her in clothing, feeding and educating her family of "ten talented children". We are told in HISTORY OF STEUBEN COUNTY on pages 845-46 that John Wesley Thomas was raised by his grandfather, Michael Thomas. Perhaps Michael had a hand in raising some of the other youngsters also. Jonathan Thomas may have been able inbetween his ministerial duties to provide for the children himself. At any rate none of the children was harmed by the comings and goings of their father and all grew up to be exceptional people.

Elizabeth Thomas died on January 16, 1865, according to a stone in Alvarado Cemetery. She was aged 58 years, 3 months and 22 days. (According to our calculations using her birth date from the family Bible she would have been aged 61 years, 4 months and 24 days at the time of her death.) Her husband outlived her by thirty-two years. He spent his last years at the home of his son, John Wesley, at Hamilton, Indiana. He suffered from the affects of old

age and loss of memory. We have gleaned enough information from Lena Hicks, whose father knew Jonathan Thomas, and from others to realize that Jonathan Thomas in his old age was quite a handful for "Wes". His bouts with the devil, with whom he had engaged in fierce competition for sixty years, were intense, loud and frequent as the old man became more and more senile.

Jonathan Thomas died January 3, 1897, aged 89 years, 10 months and 8 days, according to the RELIGIOUS TELESCOPE of March 31, 1897. (11) The funeral service took place at the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was preached by Elder J. W. Lilly of Hicksville, Ohio, with the Reverend S. G. Neil assisting.

Jonathan Thomas is buried in Alvarado Cemetery, Richland Center, Indiana. He does not have a marker. Also buried on the same lot with Jonathan and Elizabeth are a daughter, Clemenza, grandsons, Charlie Holt, Udelmor Holt, Oscar Holt, their son-in-law, John Holt, and Mary Ann and Sebastian Somerlott.

We will finish this story of Jonathan Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth Bacon by quoting from the introduction to Rev. Fletcher Thomas's book. The introduction was written by Bishop N. Castle.

"Jonathan Thomas...was one of the most distinquished pioneer preachers of Ohio, Indiana and Southern Michigan. The writer remembers him at the early camp-meetings of over sixty years ago (Bishop Castle was writing at Philomath, Oregon on June 3, 1907), in the very beginning of things in Northern Indiana. He was a marked figure in his day. He was rather a short, square-built man, with muscles of knotted and braided steel, and a face that told of the invincible, though radiant with expressions of good will, and brotherly kindness. As a preacher he was far above the average for this early time. His voice was one of his chief endowments. It was an orotund, with great carriage and penetration, and it seemed to answer the purpose of his will without an apparent effort. Although of such great compass and power it never grated harshly on the ear of the hearer."

Jonathan's picture in Fletcher's book is of a man of sixty-five years. His forehead is broad. His hair is grey, but he still has all of it. His jaw is square, and is clean-shaven. His pale-irised eyes are clear and bright. His expression is that of a resolute and self-confident man.

God Bless Him!

FOOTNOTES

1. You will find Johnathan Howard Wagner under Footnote 12 of these footnotes. We previously quoted him in our write-up on Leverton and Mary Thomas. Before his death, he had worked up

quite a record on the descendants of Jonathan and Elizabeth, but passed away before he could get it published. Birdie borrowed these records from his son, Dr. Clyde LaSalle Wagner of Seattle, Washington. Of course, we cannot vouch for their accuracy since he does not say in his notes where he got his information but we assume it was from other family members. However, he did have a photostat of Bible records among his papers. Usually Bible records are pretty accurate. Dr. C. L. Wagner's address at the time he loaned us the records was: 918 Hamlin Street, Seattle, Washington.

2. You will find a write-up on ALBERT DELMAR THOMAS elsewhere in this book.

3. Ethel Thomas was a descendant of Michael Thomas, Jr. whom we have already told you was a child of Michael and Agnes Thomas. After we located her and began a correspondence with her, she became so interested in this family that she decided to write a book of her own, THE STORY OF A FAMILY. It is a delightful little book. Her story of her own immediate family is wonderful. She published the book in April, 1967. She passed away on October 10, 1974 at the age of 91 years.

4. This date is from the photostat of Bible records in the possession of Dr. Clyde Wagner, as are the birth records of all the children of Jonathan and Elizabeth, and their marriage date, as well as the birth date of Elizabeth Bacon Thomas. If you take Jonathan's age at the time of his death, it calculates out to be that he was born on this date, which we feel is further proof that this date is accurate.

5. We found Elizabeth's surname spelled any number of ways--- Beacome, Bacome, Beacom, but Fletcher says her name was "Bacon".

6. We have been able to find NO record of Henry Bacon in the government records of Revolutionary soldiers. Howard has heard the story that Henry Bacon's uncle was a British spy during the Revolution which so distressed Henry that he changed his name to Bacon after the war was over.

7. Lena Hicks in her HISTORY OF ALVARADO CHURCH indicates that Jonathan Thomas, his wife and ten children first came to Richland Township, Steuben County, Indiana with "the rush of pioneer settlers" in 1836, and "located on land now part of the Raymond Wilson farm in the South end of the township". Records in the Tract Book for Township 36, Range 15E (Richland Township) of Steuben County show that Jonathan Thomas purchased the SE 1/4 of Section 31 of Township 36, consisting of 160 acres on July 15, 1836. He sold this land piecemeal. The first piece he sold to Samuel Bohart on November 16, 1846 (ten acres). He next sold thirty acres to Margaret Bohart (S part of E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 31) on

March 7, 1853. On June 30, 1860, he sold eighty acres (W 1/2 of SE 1/4 of Section 31) to Cyrus O. Lawrence for $1,000; which leaves forty acres unaccounted for. We found that Jonathan also purchased land in Sections 17 and 18. In March, 1857 he bought the N 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 17 (20 acres) from S. M. Thomas. This must have been his son Salathiel Mark. On August 12, 1857 he purchased a part of the SE 1/4 of Section 17 consisting of forty acres from a Tulman Keyes for $100. On October 9, 1862 he purchased sixty acres of land (the N part of the NE 1/4 of Section 18) from Nehemiah Hand for which he paid $1,500.

It is Mrs. Hicks' contention that Jonathan also purchased a farm from the first settler in Richland Township, one John Douglas. John Douglas made the first land entry in Richland Township on October 11, 1835. He entered on eighty acres of land. On April 6, 1851, he deeded a portion of this farm on the northwest corner to Enos P. Church, who was Jonathan's son-in-law. Fletcher, however, says that Jonathan gave this land to Church for the building of Alvarado Church. Jonathan's own home was situated directly in back of the church. At a later date another son-in-law, Charlie Holt, was given land for a store. Mrs. Hicks believes that Jonathan purchased the whole farm from Douglas and that different deeds were given to Jonathan and to Enos Church at the time of the sale.

8. The following is the entire write-up on Jonathan Thomas to be found in HISTORY OF STEUBEN COUNTY, page 847:

Rev. Jonathan Thomas was born in Pennsylvania in 1807. When he was seventeen years of age his parents, L. and A. Thomas, moved to Wayne County, Ohio, where he was married in 1825 to Elizabeth Beacom, a native of Maryland, born in 1807, daughter of Henry Beacom, a hero of the Revolutionary war. To them were born ten children; all save one lived till maturity and four are now living---Enoch, of Marshall County, Iowa; John W., of this township; Fletcher, of North Manchester, Ind., a Presiding Elder in the United Brethern Church, and William H., of Tama County, Iowa. Elizabeth (deceased), a twin sister of Enoch, was the wife of Rev. E. P. Church. S. Mark died in Iowa. Henrietta was noted for her culture and literary ability, many of her poems and prose articles appearing in the New York LEDGER and other periodicals. She married Frank Payton, of Huntington County, Ind., and died at Winterset, Iowa, in 1880, aged twenty-six years. Rev. Jonathan Thomas moved from Williams County, Ohio to Steuben County, Ind., in 1846, where he resided till after the death of his wife, which occured in 1863. Since then he has had no permanent residence. He has been a minister of the United Brethern church sixty years, being ordained soon after his first marriage. At present he has no settled appointment, but is doing the work of an evangelist, and expects to do the Master's work till called home. He is now living with

his third wife. (In 1885, when this book was published, he would have been 78 years of age.)

9. Fletcher has this account of the years that his father spent as an itinerant preacher:

"Father was a minister of the United Brethern church about sixty years; twenty of which were spent in the "Black Swamps" of Ohio, as they were known in that day. Those were years of unusual toil and suffering, in which his family shared. Impressed with a devine call to work of the ministery, and moved by love for the souls of men, he waded swamps, swam rivers, slept in the woods, with no pillow save his saddle; often hungry and cold; but he patiently endured all."

10. At the General Conference of the United Brethern church in 1845, the northern part of Indiana was separated from the Wabash Conference. On September 5, 1845, a conference was called at North Manchester, Indiana. Jonathan Thomas was one of the charter members of this conference. When the conference met again at the same place on September 6, 1851, Jonathan Thomas was again present.

11. Death records of Steuben County, Indiana begin with the year 1898. It is thought that all previous records were accidently burned.

12. We will give you what we have on the children of Jonathan and Elizabeth, just as we did on the children of Liverton and Anne. We hope that if you are interested in this branch of the family that you will research them further yourselves.

ENOCH THOMAS was more than likely born in Wayne County, Ohio, although, as we have indicated, Fletcher says he was born near Findlay, Ohio. Perhaps he was, for the way people moved around the country from one place to another in the "good old days", when there were no roads, no settlements, and no modern means of locomotion, is remarkable. Still, for a pregnant woman to be so far from "family" and assistance, and about to give birth to twins, doesn't make good sense.

Enoch married a woman named Minerva M. Monlux* in Branch County, Michigan at the home of her father, George Monlux, on May 13, 1847. Enoch was a resident of Steuben County, Indiana. He was 21 years of age. Minerva was a resident of Branch County, Michigan. She was 19 years of age. The marriage ceremony was read by Enoch's father, the Reverend Mr. Jonathan Thomas. (Recorded Branch County Courthouse, on Sept. 2, 1847, Book 109, File #521.)

*This is the name in the Branch County records. J. Howard Wagner gives her name as Minerva M. Manley. Enoch was a Methodist minister, according to his grandson, John Dale

Thomas. Fletcher says, "Three weeks from the date of his conversion (to Christ) he preached his first sermon, and soon after was licensed to preach the gospel...."(1854-55).

John Dale Thomas told us that Enoch and Minerva were the parents of WESLEY, SEB, ELIZABETH, and CHARLES FLETCHER.

The following information on the children of Enoch and Minerva came from the Johnathan Howard Wagner papers:

JOHN WESLEY THOMAS was born in either Steuben or Branch Counties on March 27, 1847. He was married to Mary E. Wilbur (born Norfolk County, Massachusetts on October 16, 1850) on June 22, 1868. He died on February 4, 1898 and is buried at Gladbrook, Iowa. Mary died on August 8, 1937.

URSEBA (SEB) THOMAS was born at Coldwater, Michigan on January 18, 1853. She was married twice; her first husband was Alex Pray. Her second husband was Edward Winthrop Collins. Collins died October 29, 1937. He is buried at Topeka, Kansas. If you are interested you might check the Garden City, Kansas area for further information on Urseba. Apparently she was still alive when J. Howard Wagner was working on these records.

ELIZABETH CORENZIE COMENZA EUPHEMA THOMAS, who was born in Coldwater, Branch County, Michigan married a man named Frank Pray, who was born in New Madison, Ohio. Elizabeth was born June 19, 1855; was married in Gladbrook, Iowa on September 12, 1868, and died December 6, 1941 at Wichita, Kansas. She was the mother of seven children: George, Franklin, Elmer, Enoch, Maude, Marie, Bertha, Lee, Olive, Ethel and Marion.

CHARLES FLETCHER THOMAS was born in Iowa on May 8, 1862 (3?). He married his first cousin, Hattie Holt, daughter of his Aunt Angeline on January 20, 1882. He died August 12, 1950 and is buried at Toledo, Iowa. He and Hattie were the parents of two children---Dr. Clyde Earl Thomas and John Dale Thomas.

Minerva was born on January 17, 1825 and died on November 15, 1891. She is buried in Tama County, Iowa. Enoch died on August 24, 1907 and is also buried in Tama County. Enoch apparently went out to Kansas to live with Urseba in his old age. In 1902 he was living in Uniontown, Kansas according to J. Wesley Thomas's obituary in THE HAMILTON NEWS of July 4, 1902.

ELIZABETH THOMAS was born January 24, 1826. Fletcher says that she was converted to the Christian faith at the age of twelve years. She married Enos P. Church on April 20, 1843 when she was seventeen years old. Church was a carpenter by trade, who converted to Christianity and became a minister in the Methodist church. She was the mother of three children, according to Fletcher: Freeman Church, a veteran of the Civil War;

Chester who attended DePauw and became a Methodist preacher; and Ina, who married J. A. Beatty, also a minister of the Methodist Church. Elizabeth died in 1878 and was buried at North Manchester, Indiana.

SALATHIEL MARK THOMAS. Fletcher doesn't have much to say about him. He died in 1877 at the home of Enoch in Gladbrook, Iowa. He married Elizabeth Church on March 8, 1848. Howard found Salathiel and Elizabeth in the 1850 federal census living in Richland Township, Steuben County, Indiana. J. Howard Wagner says that he is buried in Richland (Alvarado) Steuben County, Indiana. We did not see a tombstone for him when we visited the Alvarado Cemetery.

JOHN WESLEY THOMAS has an extensive write-up in HISTORY OF STEUBEN COUNTY. He must have had a very interesting life, although his brother, Fletcher tends to down-play his experiences as unworthy of a man of "more than ordinary physical endurance. and of brilliant intellect". Perhaps the Reverend Mr. Fletcher Thomas had little use for any experience outside the ministry. John Wesley apparently had a better-than-average education for the times in which he lived. Fletcher says he was graduated "from the Orland Academy". His biography in HISTORY OF STEUBEN COUNTY says he attended Hillsdale College (Hillsdale, Michigan). After his junior year he was "obliged to leave school". A letter from us to Hillsdale College asking about him, elicited the information that the school endured a "Great Fire of 1874" and "practically all records were destroyed". John also spent about nine years in California and Oregon. We wrote letters there also, but didn't learn anything of value. Besides farming, he was engaged in teaching, sold general merchandise and lumber, and ran a saw-grist mill. His obituary says he married "Julia Benedick" on September 3, 1860. Juliet Benedict was his first wife. Juliet died September 2, 1861, "leaving an infant daughter 15 days old who died six months later". (Howard found a book in the Peru, Indiana library entitled, TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS- Steuben County, Indiana, 1967 Fort Wayne Library, which says Juliaette Thomas (Mrs. J. W.) died August 27, 1861 aged 27 years, 7 months and 17 days. Jackson Prairie Cemetery, Jackson Township, Lot 14). His second wife was Phoebe Everhart. Phoebe was born March 21, 1843 and died June 5, 1919. John Wesley died of heart failure on June 24, 1902. Both are buried at Hamilton, Indiana. They were married May 3, 1866. (We also have May 3, 1863 and May 3, 1865.)

John and Phoebe were the parents of four children: Zo, who married Charles Mann Brown; Thaddeus Worth, who married Olivia Grandling (we also have a spelling of Grambling); Frank Payton, who married Alice Farley, and Jonathan Park, who married Grace Adele Goodwin.

JOHN FLETCHER THOMAS has been a tremendous help to us in

many ways, but he also caused us a lot of problems. We hope that all of you get to read his little book. To do so is to take a step backward in time. His preaching appears to have followed the style of the day, so much different than the preaching we hear today which offers explanation and encouragement to the congregation, rather than the spector of hell-fire and brimstone.

Fletcher was married to Mary Jane Brown, a daughter of a United Brethern minister, on December 8, 1853. They were married at Richland Center, Indiana. Miss Brown was seventeen years old. They were the parents of three children: Boyd Lawrence, who married Mary Olive Wire. Boyd was born on August 29, 1855 and died on February 24, 1913. Both he and Mary are buried in Oaklawn Cemetery, North Manchester, Indiana; Annis Viola, who married Frank T. Welker. Annis was born November 15, 1857 and died August 12, 1912. She is buried at North Manchester, Indiana; Enos F., who married Zora T. Leffel. Enos was born July 23, 1862 at Roanoke, Indiana and died March 31, 1941. He and Zora are both buried at North Manchester.

Fletcher preached his last sermon at the Seven Mile Church, near Logansport, Indiana on June 13, 1907. His prophetic text was James 2:23, "And he was called a friend of God". He died on June 17, 1907, aged 76 years, 4 months, and nine days. He is buried in Oaklawn Cemetery, North Manchester, Indiana. He has a stone. Mary Jane Brown Thomas died February 28, 1923 and is also buried at North Manchester, beside her husband. She does not have a stone.

CLEMENZA THOMAS was never married. She passed away on November 16, 1854 aged 21 years, 7 months and 24 days, according to a stone in Alvarado Cemetery.

ANGELINE THOMAS was married twice. Her first husband was John Holt. We are not sure of the date of his death. J. Howard Wagner told us it was 1855, but several children were born after this date, so we know that is incorrect. Mrs. Hicks thought he died in 1861. He is buried with the Thomases and the Somerlotts in Alvarado Cemetery. John and Angeline were the parents of these children:

A. LUELLA (ELLA) HOLT was born in Steuben County, Indiana on March 2, 1851. She was married to Joseph Williams on February 20, 1890. She died on January 10, 1931 and is buried in North Manchester, Indiana. She was the mother of two children: Paul and Mary.

B. HARRIET (HATTIE) HOLT was born February 2, 1859 at Steuben County, Indiana. She married first a man named William Lamb and second,her first cousin, Charles Thomas. Hattie died December 4, 1935 and is buried at Toledo, Iowa.

C. UDELMOR S. HOLT was aged 2 years. 2 months and 15 days when he died on February 2, 1858. He is buried in Alvarado Cemetery.

D. CHARLIE HOLT was aged 6 years, 8 months and 23 days when he died on August 8, 1870. He is buried in Alvarado Cemetery.

E. OSCAR HOLT was an infant son who died March 17, 1862. He, too, is buried in Alvarado Cemetery.

After the death of John Holt, Angeline was married to Simon Peter Wagner. Peter was born September 13, 1825 and died November 3, 1900. They were married on September 19, 1869. Angeline passed away on November 2, 1912 and is buried at North Manchester, Indiana. Angeline and Peter were the parents of:

A. EDWIN RUSSELL WAGNER (Nov. 17, 1871 - Feb. 10, 1872) He is buried in Whitley County, Indiana.

B. JOHNATHAN HOWARD WAGNER (Jan. 17, 1873 - ?). He is buried in Seattle, Washington.

C. CLYDE LASALLE WAGNER (This person is NOT the Dr. Wagner who loaned us his father's papers.)(Nov. 23, 1875 - Dec. 10, 1910) He is buried at Attica, Indiana.

D. ELDON MATT WAGNER (Dec. 6, 1877 - June 1, 1880). He is buried in Whitley County, Indiana.

JONATHAN RUSSELL BIGELOW THOMAS was named for the famous Methodist, Jonathan Russell Bigelow, we are told by Fletcher. The little boy died "at the age of four years".

WILLIAM HENRY THOMAS apparently never married. Fletcher says he was born in Williams County, Ohio and was educated at Leona, Michigan. He must have resided with Enoch in Tama County, Iowa for Fletcher says he died at Enoch's home of cancer. His death occurred in 1895. Presumably he is buried in Tama County.

HENRIETTA THOMAS must have finished her education in Hillsdale College in Michigan even though John Wesley Thomas was forced to drop out in their junior year. Fletcher says she was a school teacher. She was married to Frank (W. Frank) Payton on September 18, 1870. She passed away on October ____, 1877. She is buried in Adel, Iowa, a small town near Des Moines. Henrietta and Frank were the parents of:

A. MAUDE PAYTON who was born April 7, 1873. She married Clarence Roberts and was living at Pamona, California

at the time J. Howard Wagner was assembling these records. C. B. Roberts is buried at Monrovia, California.

B. INEZ PAYTON was born May 27, 1871 and died November 22, 1941. She never married. She is buried at Pamona, California.

MICHAEL THOMAS, JR.

MICHAEL THOMAS, JR. was born in Wayne County, Ohio on May 8, 1814 according to his obituary in the RELIGIOUS TELESCOPE of May 12, 1880. (1) He was a child of Michael and Agnes Thomas. As we have already told you his parents came to Section 34, Greene Township, Wayne County, Ohio in 1811. Michael was probably born on his parents' farm and grew up there. He attended school, we feel certain, for he could read and write very well. A letter he wrote at Cedarville, Indiana on January 22, 1880 is quoted in full in the above mentioned obituary.

When Michael was about seventeen years old his parents sold their farm to Mr. Bechtel and moved farther west to Hancock County. Either shortly before they moved or directly thereafter, his obituary says, "he was converted in his eighteenth year, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church". We know that he accompanied his parents to Hancock County because his obituary says so---"he went with his parents to Hancock County, Ohio..."

He was married in about 1836 or 1837 to CHARLOTTE SHIPPEY. (2) Michael and Charlotte were the parents of at least four children: DRUSILLA, who was born March 4, 1838; W. DAVID, born March 26, 1839; WILLIAM SWAYZE, born November 18, 1841; and JAMES G., born in 1843.

We found Michael Thomas, Jr. in the 1840 federal census for Washington Township, Hancock County, Ohio. In his family were one boy under five years of age (W. David); one boy 15 to 20 years of age (we have no idea who this person was; perhaps a visiting relative, or a neighborhood youngster hired to help with the chores, or an orphan living in Michael's home); and one man 20-30 years of age whom we take to be Michael, Jr. himself; one girl under five years of age (Drusilla) and one woman aged 20-30 years (Charlotte). He must have resided fairly closely to his brother Liverton's establishment, since there is only one line between them in the census taker's book. We are guessing that he was living on some of the property his father bought in 1831.

On August 6, 1844, little Drusilla died, aged 6 years, 5 months and 2 days according to her stone. On February 27, 1846, her mother died. Both Drusilla and Charlotte are buried in Fountain Cemetery, Fostoria, Ohio. They lie side by side, but away from the rest of the Thomases. Their graves are on the South side of

the cemetery drive next to the highway. A large tree has grown around Charlotte's stone and may eventually engulf both her stone and Drusilla's. Charlotte was aged 32 years and 9 months at her death, so says her stone.

In the late summer of the year his wife died Michael was married to DRUSILLA SHIPPEY (September 3, 1846). The marriage is recorded with the Probate Court of Hancock County at Findlay, Ohio. We believe that Drusilla was a sister of Charlotte Shippey. The Shippey girls were of Irish descent. (3)

We would like to digress from our story on Michael Thomas, Jr. for a moment if we may, and draw your attention now to a pattern that the Thomases have been following for two generations. The pattern is this: each time cheap government land opened up for sale a son or sons, would borrow or acquire in some manner, money from the parents with which to purchase some of this cheap land. Michael, Sr. borrowed, if you recall, eighty dollars from Leverton and Mary with which he purchased land in Wayne County. After making back-breaking improvements on it, however, he sold it and went to Hancock County where he and his eldest son purchased four more parcels of cheap government land. Since Michael, Sr. was already fifty-six years old when he and Agnes sold out to Jacob Bechtel, he must have bought the land for his sons. These men then turned around after these lands were improved upon (all except Liverton) and went over to Indiana where once again cheap land was being offered for sale. Perhaps we have no right to criticize these people, but it seems to us that they were doing an awful lot of hard work and doing without an awful lot of creature comforts in clearing the lands and erecting buildings, simply to sell the fruits of their labors and go someplace else only to work their behinds off in another wilderness. But perhaps on the other hand, we should not have been nearly so proud of them and their accomplishments if they had not done so.

Which brings us to the year 1848 in the life of Michael Thomas, Jr. In that year he and his brother Hugh "took off" for Indiana. Eventually Hugh, instead of consolidating the gains he and his father and brothers had made, in 1854 left Indiana and went to Iowa, yet another wilderness!

On June 17, 1848, Michael Thomas, Jr. purchased for $260 eighty acres of land from Elizur, Jr. and Eliza C. Goodrich in Allen County (4), Indiana. He is described as a resident of Hancock County, Ohio when the deed was recorded. He was in his thirty-fourth year and the father of three young sons and a baby daughter when he moved to Indiana. A child had been born to Michael and his wife, Drusilla. The little girl was named Luemma.

August 6, 1852, Michael purchased another 160 acres of land from Noyes and Isabella Billings and William W. and Louisa Billings for $480. The second farm was the Northeast quarter of Section 30, Township 32, North of Range 13 East. The land abutted on the east

against the 80 acres that he had purchased from the Goodriches in 1848. His land was located between Cedar Creek and the St. Joseph River in Cedar Creek Township. The neighbors of the Thomases were the Notestines. We have indicated elsewhere that the Notestines were prominent early settlers in Cedar Creek Township. Jacob and Barbara Notestine came to Allen County from Ohio on July 14, 1830. We are interested in them because it was in their private family cemetery on their land that Michael, Sr. and his wife Ellen are buried. Since we have not been able to locate any record of the marriage of Michael and Ellen Thomas, we have mulled over the idea that perhaps Ellen was a Notestine, or a Devanter (relatives of the Notestines). Some of the Devanters are buried in Notestine Cemetery. Descendants of the Notestines, however, told Howard that Michael and Ellen Thomas are probably buried in their cemetery simply because the Thomases and the Notestines may have been good friends. We know that they were close neighbors. (5)

Drusilla Shippey Thomas died on March 12, 1849. She is buried in the Leo Cemetery at Leo, Indiana. At the time of her death this cemetery was the churchyard of the United Brethern Church. The building itself was eventually sold to the Methodists. It is no longer standing. (6) The churchyard became the Protestant cemetery of Leo.

Drusilla has a stone, but it is becoming extremely difficult to read. A book in the library at Fort Wayne says it originally read:

DRUSILLA
Wife of Michael Thomas, Jr.
Died March 17, 1849*
Aged 33 years, 5 months, 16 days (7)

*We copied March 12, 1849 from her tombstone and the DAR ladies copied March 17, 1849.

Calculating from her age at time of death, she would have been born on October 1, 1815.

About two months after the death of Drusilla, Michael was married to his third wife. Her name was NANCY JULIA GRISWOLD. They were married on May 13, 1849. Nancy was almost fourteen years younger than her husband. She must have been a young woman of strong character, as she was only about twenty-one years of age and was assuming the responsibility of raising Michael's four children, namely, David, aged ten years; William, aged eight; James, aged five; and Luemma, aged two.

Nancy was the child of Riley and Polly Griswold. She was born March 28, 1828, according to her tombstone. She was of English descent. Miss Ethel Thomas told us that Nancy's great-grandfather was a man named John Ashley. He had a son also named John, who married a woman named Elizabeth Johnson (Johnstone). Their daughter, Polly, was Nancy's mother.

AN AMERICAN FAMILY
Chapter V : The Children of Michael, Sr. and Agnes Thomas

Michael and Nancy were themselves the parents of at least ten children: MICHAEL CORWIN (1852); ORILLA JENNIE (1853); MYRANDA (1854); FREMONT JONATHAN (1855); MARY (1856); ESTELLA ELIZABETH (1859); EMMA VICTORIA (1862); CHARLOTTE (1863); CLARENCE RILEY (1865); and EVELYN MARY (1872). (8)

On January 3, 1851, the federal census taker of the 1850 census for Cedar Creek Township, Allen County, Indiana, visited the home of Michael and Nancy Thomas. They were listed on Page 560 of his book. In their family he found the following: Michael Thomas. aged 36, a farmer, with real estate valued at $1200; his wife. Nancy, aged 22, and born in New York State; David W. aged 11; William S, aged 9; James aged 5; and Luemma, aged 2. Not far away lived Michael's brother, Hugh Thomas and his family, as we find them listed on page 561.

Ten years later in the 1860 census we find Michael and Nancy still in Cedar Creek Township. Their household now was composed of themselves and David, William, James, Luemma, Michael, Orilla. Fremont. Estella. and Michael's father Michael, Sr.

When the 1870 census was taken in Cedar Creek Township, Michael and Nancy's household consisted of, besides themselves, Luemma, Michael, Jennie (Orilla), Fremont, Estella, Emma, Charlotte, and Clarence. Michael's father had passed away in 1862.

Nancy Julia was the head of the household when the census taker came to take the federal census in 1880. Michael Thomas, Jr. had passed away. Nancy was still living in Cedar Creek Township. Six of her children were still at home: Fremont, Estella, Emma, Charlotte, Clarence and Evelyn.

Michael Thomas, Jr. died as the result of a fall from a wagon. On the sixteenth of October, 1879, Michael and Nancy "started for Fort Wayne; and before we got there I was thrown out of my wagon, and hurt so that I knew nothing for about 2 hours and a half". "The bruise from the fall caused his death. He died under surgical and medical treatment in the hospital at Fort Wayne...." on April 7, 1880. He was aged 65 years, 10 months and 29 days. (9) Michael was buried beside his second wife, Drusilla, in the Leo Cemetery in the old section. He has a large, well preserved marker.

Around the year 1854, Michael Thomas, Jr. had "found a religious home, more harmonious with his views" in the United Brethern in Christ Church. He became a quarterly-conference preacher, and after several years of serving the church in that capacity, he was received into the North Ohio Conference at Waterloo, Indiana in the fall of 1870. "He was ordained at Hicksville, Ohio on September 13, 1874." He would have been aged 60 years at the time of his ordaination.

Michael Thomas was evidently a pious man, rather modest, but ex-

tremely conscientious, who was well-liked by those who knew and worked with him in the church. He was probably never the converter of "lost souls" and "sinners" that his brother Jonathan was, but accomplished his work for the Lord in a more quiet and unobtrusive manner. As his friend and pastor, J. K. Alwood tells us in a tribute to Michael, he was "a large body filled with a soul fully as large".

Apparently Nancy Julia Griswold Thomas continued to live on in her home on the old homestead until her death. Her grandson. LYELL E. PAFF told Howard that he took his grandmother many times to the Brethern church at Cedarville when he was a boy. Nancy died on February 6, 1912 and was buried in the Leo cemetery quite some distance from her husband and infant children, Mary and Myranda. She has a large stone. Her grave is located next to the driveway in about what is now the center of the cemetery.

Nancy was almost 84 years old when she died. She was born in New York State and came with her parents to Indiana, where her grandfather had purchased "a large tract of land" in the vacinity of Fort Wayne, we are told by Miss Ethel Thomas, and to which he had emigrated with many of his family in May, 1837.

FOOTNOTES

1. The Religious Telescope was an organ of the United Brethern Church.

2. We were not able to locate any record of this marriage in the Probate Court records of either Wood, Seneca or Hancock Counties, Ohio. However, we did not personally check the records of these three counties, but relied on the clerks there to check the records for us. We know that Charlotte was the wife of Michael Thomas, Jr. because Charlotte Shippey is the name given as the mother of William S. Thomas in the records of the Noble County Health Commissioner at Albion, Indiana. Her name is also listed as the name of the mother of W. David Thomas on the records of the Hartzler-Gutermuth Funeral Home, Elkhart. Indiana.

   In passing, let us say that we also checked the Wayne County records on the outside chance that Michael and Charlotte may have been married before the Thomases left Wayne County. There is no record of the marriage there. We also checked the records of Sandusky County, Ohio with no luck. Records of marriages of Wood County did not begin until 1841.

   We may be mispelling the name "Shippey". An ANNA ELIZABETH SHIPPY witnessed a legal paper for RACHEL LINGAFELT THOMAS, widow of HIRAM W. THOMAS on May 2, 1863. The other witness was Michael Thomas.

3. We know that Charlotte, at least, was of Irish descent from the write-up on W. David Thomas in the book entitled Twentieth Century History and Biographical Record of Elkhart County, Indiana pages 666-667 located in the Fort Wayne Public Library. "Mr. Thomas was a son of Michael and Charlotte (Shippey) Thomas, the father of Welsh and the mother of Irish descent..." We are assuming that Charlotte and Drusilla were sisters on the strength of the fact that a grandson of Michael Thomas (a man named GARD THOMAS) told Howard that his grandfather's first two wives were sisters.

4. The land that Michael Thomas, Jr. purchased from the Goodriches was the West 1/2 of the Northwest quarter of Section 29, Township 32 North of Range 32 East (Cedar Creek Township). This transaction is located in Book 1, Page 695 of the records of the Probate Court of Allen County.

5. The land transaction with the Billingses is located in the records of the above Probate Court in Book M, Page 569.

6. We got this information from a Mr. S. J. Hull, Secretary-Treasurer of the Leo Cemetery who wrote on August 1, 1961:

Dear Madam:

Received your inquiry a few days ago and will say to my knowledge there never has been a record kept (i.e. of early burials in Leo Cemetery). All we have is the burial permits and don't date back only to 1906 or somewhere near that date. The cemetery that you inquired about is called the Leo M. E. Cemetery as it was started when the church used to stand in Northwest corner of the cemetery just across from the Shell filling station. I am sorry I can't be of any help to you but around a hundred years is quite a while and I don't think there are many that can remember that far back. I know that there were "Thomases" used to live around here, but I don't remember ever getting acquainted with any of them and I have lived around for 68 years.

(signed) S. J. Hull

P. S. Our first M. E. church was bought from the United Brethern People in 1875 as near as I remember, now if it goes back farther then there will be no records.

7. Taken from Burials in Allen County Except Fort Wayne, DAR Leo Cemetery, page 51, The Public Library of Ft. Wayne and Allen County, Indiana, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

8. The birth dates of these children are from Miss Ethel Thomas' book, The Story of a Family, excepting the birth dates of Mary and Myranda. These children have a mutual stone in Leo Cemetery. Myranda's name and date were copied by the DAR

ladies for their book Burials in Allen County Except Fort Wayne, however, they neglected to copy Mary's name and data. They also failed to copy the information from the stone of CHARLES E. THOMAS, who appears to be another child of Michael and Nancy. Charles died on March 11, 1851 (or 1857) aged 1 month and 15 days. His stone is badly worn. When Birdie and Loyce visited the Leo Cemetery in 1961, and copied a great deal of the information we are giving you, we thought the stone said that the baby was the son of W. & E. Thomas. A later visit by Howard's brother, however, indicated that the child was the son of Michael and Nancy.

9. The date of his death and age at death taken from his gravestone.

10. THE CHILDREN OF MICHAEL THOMAS, JR. We were able to locate only two of the descendants of Liverton and Anne Wade Thomas ---a man named NELSON POE and his sister HELEN POE WADE. Nelson Poe was a very old man whose memory was gone, and who subsequently died without our ever corresponding with him. We had no correspondence with Helen Wade either. On the other hand, we enjoyed a great deal of correspondence with the descendants of Michael and Nancy. We were able to supply two of them with enough information that they were able to work up family histories of their own (The Story of a Family, by Miss Ethel Thomas, and The Leverton Thomas Family of Pennsylvania and Descendants 1773-1977, by Katherine Mulanax 1977). Perhaps our best correspondent was Miss Ethel Thomas, and we acknowledge here all the help she gave us with dates and information concerning the Reverend Mr. Michael Thomas. Jr. and his family.

DRUSILLA THOMAS We have told you all we know about Drusilla's short life in the body of our story. It seems obvious that she was named for the woman we believe was her mother's sister---Drusilla Shippey Thomas.

W. DAVID THOMAS We are not sure if this child's name was W. David or David W. as we have seen it both ways. Nor do we know what the "W" stood for. He was born in Hancock County, Ohio on March 26, 1839. the child of Michael's first wife, Charlotte Shippey. He was not quite seven years old when his mother died. When he was about ten years old his father took his family to Indiana to live. He grew up as a farm child. He was about sixteen years old when he struck out on his own, and began his career in education by teaching school. He was graduated from DePauw University with the Class of 1872. In 1873 he became Superintendent of Schools in Wabash, Indiana, and in 1886, Superintendent of Schools in Elkhart, Indiana---a post he held until his retirement.

David was a Methodist. He was a veteran of the Civil War; en-

listing in April, 1861 in Company G., Twelfth Indiana Infantry. He also saw service in Company E, Fifty-fifth Indiana Infantry. David was married in 1872 to Anna Beechgood. They had at least three children: Merriam, who died as an infant, Paula B. and Frost B., both of whom grew to adulthood. David passed away on March 24, 1915 at, we believe, his home at 506 West Lexington Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana. He was buried beside his wife and the child, Merriam, in Grace Lawn Cemetery, Elkhart, Indiana.

WILLIAM SWAYZE THOMAS Most of the information we can give you on this child of Michael and Charlotte, we learned from records on file with the National Archives. Much of it is in his own words and handwriting. This is how we know he could read and write. William S. Thomas was born in Hancock County, Ohio on November 18, 1841 (This date and place also found among the papers of Miriam Hively). He was only four years old when his mother died. While the Thomases were still living in Hancock County. William met with some sort of accident that left him with a crippled left arm. He tells us, "in regard (to my) crippled arm---I will state that I was a small boy when I became crippled in left arm; it was before I was seven years old". In another place in the National Archives records he says he cannot remember the exact date of the accident, but his best recollection is that it happened prior to the year 1848. He does not recall how the accident happened but "my best recollection is the accident was caused by a fall". He states that he came to Allen County, Indiana in the year 1848. He would have been six or seven years old.

In spite of his injured arm he served two different tours of duty with the Union forces in the Civil War. On June 9, 1862 he enlisted at Fort Wayne with the rank of Corporal in Co. E, 55th Regiment, Indiana Infantry. He was discharged on September 6. 1862. His second enlistment was at Columbia City, Indiana on May 5, 1864 for 100 days. He served in Co. K, 139th Regiment Indiana Infantry where he obtained the rank of Second Corporal. He was mustered out on September 29. 1864.

Records of the Leo Methodist Church at Leo, Indiana show he was married to Lucretia W. Cook at Cedarville Methodist Church (about two miles South of Leo) on March 19,1871. Miss Ethel Thomas calls this woman Lavantia Cook. She died on July 17, 1893. Apparently Lucretia and William had no children. William was married the second time to Celia E. Clark Rosco on May 8, 1894. Celia died on October 25. 1897 and is buried in the old part of Wolf Lake Cemetery, Lot 62. Celia was the widow of Nelson Rosco (who died on March 25, 1885). She married William at Wolf Lake, Indiana. She and William were the parents of one child: Miriam (Mamie) Thomas born March 13, 1895. Mamie married a man named George W. Hively. They were the parents of four children: Thomas A., Katheryn Elizabeth.

Frances Celia and Michael J.

In the Spring of 1883, William was in the woods felling timber when the ax glanced "and pretty nigh cut" the second toe, left foot off of him. The wound did not heal correctly and "I had Dr. Depew amputate it....leaving my foot in such a condition that it has been a source of annoyance to me ever since".

William was a member of the Methodist Church, having united with that denomination in 1864. He was a farmer all his life. In 1912 his address was Kimmel, Indiana, Rural Route #1. In 1921 he was a resident of Wolf Lake, Indiana. He was 6 feet 2 inches tall, had a dark complexion, with gray eyes and in his youth had black hair. He died on May 6, 1922 and is buried in Wolf Lake Cemetery, Noble Township, Noble County, Indiana.

JAMES G. THOMAS We can tell you almost nothing about James Thomas. Miss Ethel Thomas was not able to give us very many leads on this man, although he was her father's older brother. She believed that his wife's name was Lanie and that they were the parents of four children---two boys and two girls, Ida and May. Several of Miss Ethel's cousins recollected that James, his wife and children were somehow connected with the Salvation Army in San Francisco. Howard corresponded with the Southern California Divisional Headquarters of the Army, but they were not able to locate James Thomas in their records. Loyce wrote to the Chamber of Commerce of Selma, California, where James and family supposedly lived in 1909. These people had no information on James either. They told us, "(there is not) much to report to you about James Thomas who lived in Selma in 1909. (We) contacted every Thomas family in our area, and didn't come up with any relatives among them whose name was James". We decided not to pursue the James Thomas family any further, but will let you research them if you are interested.

LUEMMA THOMAS, we believe, was the only child of Michael Thomas and his second wife, Drusilla Shippey. Luemma was born in Ohio, before the Thomases left there to live in Indiana. We know this because the federal census of 1850 tells us so. Luemma was two years old when the census was taken on January 3, 1851. The records of the Methodist Church at Leo show she was "received as a probationary member (of the church) on November 13, 1860 at the Robinson Chapel Methodist Church" in Allen County. She was 13 years old.

Luemma was married twice. Her first husband was Luther C. Wolcott. A book in the Fort Wayne library shows that Luemma and Luther were married on December 25, 1871. Luther was the

son of Luther and Fanny Wolcott. He died on January 29, 1877 of bone cancer. He was aged 33 years, 1 month and 6 days. After his death Luemma was married to a man named Henderson. Luemma died in either 1911 or 1914 (we have both dates).She is buried in the same lot as her first husband in Maple Grove Cemetery in Hudson, Michigan. Also buried on Lot 17, Section D of Maple Grove Cemetery are Luther Wolcott (7-13-1877), and Fanny Wolcott (8-29-1896). Also Herbert Wolcott (4-24-1934), & Herbert E. Wolcott (4-6-1862). We do not know if any children were born to Luemma, but believe she had one adopted child named Herbert (Bart) Wolcott.

MICHAEL CORWIN THOMAS was the first child born to Michael and Nancy Julia Thomas. He was born on January 13, 1852 near Cedarville, Indiana according to Miss Ethel Thomas. He was graduated from Roanoke College. Roanoke, Indiana. He married Alma Jane Livengood at Elkhart, Indiana on December 26. 1878. After his marriage he took his bride to Ellsworth County, Kansas near a town called Wilson where he had "proved up" on a claim, and where he built a house and barn. Michael C. and Alma were the parents of ten children: Edith May, Clarence, Ethel, Estella, DeWitt Corwin, Florence Lavantia, Irving, Mary Julia, Lotta Alma, Ruth Elizabeth, and Esther. In 1908 "the family moved to a farm six miles east of Manchester, Oklahoma..." In 1920, Michael C. and Alma moved to Winfield, Kansas "where they spent the remainder of their lives". Alma died on March 29, 1927 and Michael C. died on June 7, 1930. They are buried in a country cemetery near Wilson. Kansas.

ORILLA JENNIE THOMAS was born in 1853. She was married to her cousin. Louis DeFay Potter in (about) 1877. The Potters spent their married life in Colorado, around Pueblo and Leadville, and in Kansas. Jennie was a faithful member of the Methodist Church. "She converted and became an active worker in the church in early life". Jennie and Louis were the parents of two sons and four daughters, according to Miss Ethel. They were Clyde DeFay. Elva Jane. Edna Thomaselle, Vida Estelle, Luther DeWitt and Laura. Jennie died at the comparatively young age of forty-two. on November 26, 1895. Her husband died at Christmas time in 1902---he was interred on December 24, 1902 in Oakwood Cemetery. Parsons, Kansas. Both he and Jennie are buried in the East 1/2 of Lot 2, Block 25 in the old part of the cemetery.

MYRANDA THOMAS The only reason we know there was a Myranda Thomas was that we found her buried in Leo Cemetery when we visited there in the early 1960's. This child was born in 1854 and lived only one year, only to die on December 16, 1855.

FREMONT JONATHAN THOMAS was born in 1855 at Cedarville, Indiana. He was married to Elizabeth Kuenzi at Fort Wayne, Indiana in (about) 1880. They were the parents of three child-

ren: Bernice Elizabeth, Clarence Fremont and a child that died in infancy. Fremont and Elizabeth left Indiana and lived at various times during their married life in Colorado and Oklahoma. Fremont died in 1919. His wife died on July 11, 1946. She was born in 1855. Both are buried in Greenhill Cemetery, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Section 71, Lot 21. Also buried on this lot are Clarence F. Thomas (1890-1959) and Ruby Thomas (1890-1962). All four persons have gravestones.

MARY THOMAS was born in the winter of 1855-56. She died on March 9, 1856, aged 2 months and 24 days. She is buried in Leo Cemetery next to Myranda.

CHARLES E. THOMAS is another child of Michael's and Nancy's whom we would know nothing of if we had not found his stone in Leo Cemetery during our visit there in 1961. He is buried next to Mary and Myranda. His stone is badly worn and hard to read. He died on March 11, in either 1851 or 1857. He lived one month and 15 days. Perhaps he, rather than Michael Corwin was the first-born of Michael and Nancy.

ESTELLA ELIZABETH (STELLA) THOMAS was born near Cedarville, Indiana on April 10, 1859. She was married to Joel D. Foster in (about) 1882. Stella and Joel were the parents of five children: Hazel, Nancy Ruth, Gladys, Lucile and Clarence H. Estella died in March, 1941 and is buried in Wolf Lake Cemetery, Wolf Lake, Indiana. He husband died in 1896 and is buried at Sheridan, Arkansas.

EMMA VICTORIA THOMAS was born in 1860 near Cedarville, Indiana. She was married to Theodore Hale Ashley on September 29, 1883. He was her first cousin. They were the parents of: Dwight Hale, Ralph Thomas, William Raymond, Esther Edith, and Kenneth David. Emma died in January, 1931. Her husband died in June, 1945. Both are buried in Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Lot 83. Section D. They occupy graves 7 and 8. Also buried on their lot are Rev. James Green, Agnes Green, Elizabeth M. Green (Greer on gravestone), George Ashley and Josephine Ashley and E. A. Ashley. Emma and Theodore share a gravestone.

CHARLOTTE(LOTTIE) THOMAS was born on May 7, 1863 near Cedarville, Indiana. She married Ellsworth Daniel Paff on October 23, 1884 at Cedarville. They were the parents of: Edna Lottie. Edwin E., Lyell E., and Rosamond. It was thru Lyell Paff when he answered one of Howard's "Letter to the Editor" letters that we found Miss Ethel Thomas. Charlotte died on January 19, 1893 at Santa Anna, California where she is buried. Her husband died on December 18, 1915 at Cedarville. He is buried in Leo Cemetery.

CLARENCE RILEY THOMAS was born on July 5, 1865 near Cedarville.

He was married on November 27, 1895 to Florence Mary McCormick. They were the parents of three children: Ruth Florence, Grace Lillian, and Gard Clarence. Clarence died at Fenton, Michigan on January 11, 1955. He is buried in Leo Cemetery. Florence died on March 18, 1942 at Orland, Indiana and is also buried in Leo Cemetery.

EVELYN MARY THOMAS was born on September 17, 1872 near Cedarville. She married her sister Charlotte's widower, Ellsworth D. Paff. Five children were born to them: Alfred, Wilfred Earnest, Dorothy May, Mary Marjory and Dana Winfield. Evelyn died on November 28, 1925.

The Reverend Mr. Michael Thomas, Jr.

Sewell. To them have been born three children—Ora O., Laura B. and Glenn O. Mr. and Mrs. Sweet are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a member of Baron Steuben Post, No. 387, G. A. R. In politics he is a Republican.

George W. Swift, one of the pioneers of Steuben County, settled in Otsego Township in 1836. He was born in the old Bay State in May, 1804, a son of Ephraim Swift, who died while a soldier in the war of 1812. When he was about fourteen years of age he went to Broome County, N. Y., and lived with his maternal grandfather, Solomon Bodfitch, till manhood. He was married in 1826 to Lucretia Gates, a native of Broome County, born in 1807. When they came to this county they had three children—Edward, who died aged thirteen years; Oscar F., and Alice D., now widow of John Cowan. The children born here were—Adolphus, of York Township; David K., on the old homestead; Susan L., wife of Peter Zimmer, and Josephine, who died in childhood. Mr. Swift was one of the honored and trusted men of the township, and is well remembered by all the old pioneers for his many good qualities. He served the township many terms faithfully as Trustee and in other positions. He was an active member of the Baptist church and was one of the Deacons. He died after a life of usefulness in 1868, his wife surviving him six years.

John W. Thomas, merchant and Postmaster, Hamilton, Ind., was born in Wayne County, Ohio, March 1, 1830, a son of Rev. Jonathan and Elizabeth (Beacom) Thomas. He was reared by his grandfather, Michael Thomas, and given a good education. At the early age of fifteen years he began teaching in connection with attending school. When twenty years of age he left school and went to California by the overland route and the winter following went to Portland, Ore., then a small village in the woods, and taught the only school there at a salary of $75 a month. In the spring of 1851 he returned to California and located at Yreka, a mining village, and remained two years, teaching a select school in the winters of 1853 and 1855. In the winter of 1855 he was elected Assessor of Siskiyou County and served two years, and in 1857 was a mining overseer and Deputy Sheriff. In the winter of 1858–'9 he returned home and in the spring of 1860 became established with his brother-in-law, John Holt, in the mercantile business at Richland Center. The following fall he sold his interest and engaged in farming. He was married Sept. 2, 1860, to Juliet Benedict, who died Sept. 2, 1861, leaving an infant daughter fif-

1885

teen days old, which died six months later. Mr. Thomas then left his farm and taking his youngest sister, Henrietta, went to Hillsdale College, intending to complete the course. After passing through the junior year he was obliged to leave school, and in the winter of 1863 and summer of 1864 taught at Angola. He then sold his farm and for six years was engaged in business at Metz. In the meantime he served as Trustee of Richland Township five years. In 1872 he moved to Edon, Ohio, where he engaged in general merchandising, and also conducted a steam saw and grist-mill. He continued in business seven years when reverses in business overtook him and he lost all his property, save his residence. In 1880 he moved to Newville, De Kalb Co., Ind., and engaged in the manufacture of lumber, and in 1882 came to Hamilton and again engaged in the mercantile business, where by his genial and accommodating manner he has built up a large trade which is constantly increasing. He is a prominent and devoted member of the Odd Fellows' order. He was a charter member of Yreka Lodge, No. 180, and of the encampment, and held all the higher offices in each; was also a charter member of the encampment at Angola, holding all the higher offices and representing both the lodge and encampment in the grand lodge of the State; was a charter member of the Mt. Pleasant lodge at Metz and also passed all the chairs of the Florence Lodge in Williams County, Ohio. He was an active man in public affairs while in California. He enlisted in the Rougue River Indian war in 1856, under Captain J. P. Goodale, and participated in several skirmishes and two general engagements, serving under General Jo Lane, United States Senator. He was one of a force of twenty men under Lieutenant Ely, who discovered a large force of Indians at Dry Creek. Sending two of the men to inform General Lane the eighteen held the Indians, numbering about 250, at bay four and a half hours before reinforcements came. Fifty-two Indians were killed, and of the eighteen gallant men nine were killed and two died of wounds, Mr. Thomas and one other being the only two who were uninjured. The Indians were followed, although with great loss to the troops, and the next day were captured, thus ending the war. In the days of vigilant committees Mr. Thomas was active in upholding law and order. He was married the second time in 1866 to Phœbe Everhart, who was born in Morrow County, Ohio, in 1842, daughter of James Everhart, of Richland Township. To them have been born four children—Zoe, Thaddeus W., Frank P. and Jona-

41

Jonathan Thomas was born in Pennsylvania, Feb. 25, 1807, came to Steuben county in 1846, died in Hamilton, Jan. 8, 1897, aged 89 years, 10 months and 8 days.

1885

than P. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is class-leader and is also Superintendent of the Sunday-school.

Rev. Jonathan Thomas was born in Pennsylvania in 1807. When he was seventeen years of age his parents, L. and A. Thomas, moved to Wayne County, Ohio, where he was married in 1825 to Elizabeth Beacom, a native of Maryland, born in 1807, daughter of Henry Beacom, a hero of the Revolutionary war. To them were born ten children; all save one lived till maturity and four are now living—Enoch, of Marshall County, Iowa; John W., of this township; Fletcher, of North Manchester, Ind., a Presiding Elder in the United Brethren church, and William H., of Tama County, Iowa. Elizabeth (deceased), a twin sister of Enoch, was the wife of Rev. E. P. Church. S. Mark died in Iowa. Henrietta was noted for her culture and literary ability, many of her poems and prose articles appearing in the New York *Ledger* and other periodicals. She married Frank Payton, of Huntington County, Ind., and died at Winterset, Iowa, in 1880, aged twenty-six years. Rev. Jonathan Thomas moved from Williams County, Ohio, to Steuben County, Ind., in 1846, where he resided till after the death of his wife, which occurred in 1863. Since then he has had no permanent residence. He has been a minister of the United Brethren church sixty years, being ordained soon after his first marriage. At present he has no settled appointment, but is doing the work of an evangelist, and expects to do the Master's work till called home. He is now living with his third wife.

George H. Walberry was born in Fremont, Sandusky Co., Ohio. Oct. 26, 1845, a son of Christian and Sophia (Miller) Walberry, his father a native of Germany and came to America in 1840 and married the same year, and his mother of Columbiana County, Ohio, In July, 1846, his father died alone while returning home from the field of a friend where he had been working and his body was not found till three days later. He left two children—Rhoda Ann and George H. May 4, 1854, his mother married William Burket, by whom she had five children—Ellen Jane, George W., Caroline, Angeline and Charlotte. Mr. Burket died Aug. 7, 1864, and his wife survived him till Jan 9, 1883, dying at Elkhart, Ind., where she was visiting. George H. Walberry lived with his mother till sixteen years of age and then began to work by the month in a saw-mill. Dec. 9, 1863, in obedience to a call from the Government, he enlisted in the Ninth Company, First Battalion, Ohio

Chapter VII : Hiram W. Thomas and Rachel Lingafelt

HIRAM W. THOMAS was the first child born to Hugh and Hannah Thomas. Albert Buchholz' copybook says he was born September 16, 1831. Linette Paul's Bible gives his birth date as September 16, 1831 in Wayne County. Ohio. Howard Thomas' Bible says he was born, "A.D. 1831, Sept. 16th in Wayne County, Ohio". The Probate Court of Wayne County, Ohio did not begin to record births until 1867, so there is no record of his birth there.

We do not know what the "W" in Hiram's name represents, but we will hazard a guess it was William.

Hiram was about six months old when Hugh and Hannah and all the relatives moved from Wayne County to Hancock County. He was about seventeen years old when his parents moved to Allen County, Indiana. His "growing up" years were spent in Hancock County. He knew very intimately his uncle and aunt, Liverton and Anne Wade Thomas, and all their children---his first cousins.

He was twenty-three years old when Hugh and Hannah decided to move "out west" to Iowa. We do not know if Hiram accompanied the family on its move or not. He may have elected to stay in Indiana. Room may have been found for him at his Uncle Michael and Aunt Nancy's. Or perhaps he and his younger brother, Liverton, may have taken up bachelor's quarters. There is always the possibility that he was working as a farm hand or plasterer in order to earn money to establish a home of his own. However, this we do know---that if he did accompany the family to Iowa in the late summer of 1854, he didn't stay there long.

He was married to Rachel Lingafelt in Cedar Creek Township, Allen County, Indiana on March 20, 1856. Hiram and Rachel were married by Andrew Hollopeter M.G. (Minister of the Gospel).(1) All three now lie in the cemetery at Leo, Indiana. (2)

Sometime between their wedding day and February, 1857, the young couple went out to Iowa to live. Their first child was born there on February 21, 1857. They named the baby Hannah Elizabeth. (3)

Hiram, Rachel and the baby couldn't have stayed in Iowa for any great length of time. When the federal census of 1860 was taken they were living in Allen County again. Hiram's occupation was given as that of "plasterer". (4)

Hiram and Rachel's second child was born on January 23, 1862. He was named William Hugh. (5) Late in the summer of that same year, Hiram was enrolled to serve three years in the 88th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, as a soldier in the Union forces. He enlisted in Company "C" at Leo, Indiana on August 8, 1862. Almost immediately he found himself in Camp Allen at Fort Wayne,

Indiana. He and the rest of Company "C" left Camp Allen on August 26, 1862 and moved to Indianapolis, Indiana. There he was mustered into service as a private on the 29th day of August. 1862. He was 19 days short of being thirty-one years old. Three days after his mustering into government service, he was sent to Louisville, Kentucky. He arrived at Camp Yates, Kentucky on September 6, and on September 17 he had his first taste of warfare when the 88th Indiana went to the aid of General Nelson at Richmond, Kentucky. (6)

A great deal of manuvering was going on in Kentucky and Tennessee by the Confederate and Union forces in the late summer of 1862. Both sides were determined to control Kentucky. Confederate General Braxton Bragg commanded an army of thirty thousand men near Chattanooga. General Edmund Kirby-Smith had twelve thousand more at Knoxville. Suddenly these two began to move north toward Kentucky. At the same time, the Army of the Ohio, of which the 88th Indiana was a part, was sitting at Louisville, Kentucky. On August 30, 1862, Kirby-Smith managed to surround Union General William Nelson at Richmond, Kentucky and captured 4,303 Union soldiers.

The men of the 88th Indiana left Louisville on October 1, 1862 under command of General Don Carlos Buell, and met Bragg's forces at Perryville, Kentucky. The Battle of Perryville was fought on October 8. 1862. Although it was an indecisive battle, Buell nevertheless claimed victory. Bragg, an unpredictable man, marched back to Tennessee. Buell failed to pursue him. He was replaced in command by General William S. Rosecrans. Perryville was the high-water mark of the Confederate invasion of Kentucky. Never again did the Confederacy penetrate that far northward in the West.

Rosecrans was popular with the troops. He was also a good fighter. He spent the weeks following his assumption of command refitting and reorganizing his army. For Hiram, the weeks after Perryville were mostly spent on the march from Perryville to Nashville, Tennessee.

The first leg of the march took him to Crab Orchard, Kentucky where he and the other men of Company "C" arrived on October 15, 1862. They camped at Crab Orchard until October 20. Two days later---October 22---they arrived at Rolling Forks, near New Market, Kentucky. By November 2 they were camped on the Green River five miles from Bowling Green, Kentucky. There was a Grand Review of the troops by their new commander, General Rosecrans, on November 7. They then marched to Tyree Springs, Tennessee, arriving there on November 16. On December 4, they found themselves at Edgefield, Tennessee. From there they went to Camp Andy Johnson, Tennessee, arriving December 10 and departing December 26. They next marched to Nolensville, Tennessee arriving at that place on December 28. December 31 and January 1, 2, 3 they engaged the enemy at the Battle of Stones

River, not far from Nashville, Tennessee.

Some 45,000 Union men under Rosecrans and 37,000 Confederates under Bragg fought a "desperate inconclusive battle on a desolate frozen field" at Stones River. For a time it appeared that the Union forces would be routed, but the men of General George H. Thomas' 14th Army Corps, in the center of Rosecrans' line (of which Hiram's Company "C" was a part) hung on until the shattered troops of Rosecrans' right could regroup in the rear.

The sound of musket fire rose to such a deafening pitch that Confederate soldiers plucked raw cotton from the weedy fields and plugged up their ears. All this took place on December 31. The next three days were more or less a stand-off with sporatic firing from picket lines, but no real battles. Unaccountably, on the night of January 3, Bragg withdrew 36 miles to the south. Rosecrans moved into Murfreesboro. The number of men lost on both sides was shocking---fully one-fourth of all the troops of both Armies. Few battles of the Civil War cost more in human lives. (7)

The cost of this battle for Hiram was terrible: he lost his life. He was wounded during the battle and removed from the field to Hospital No. 21. He died there on January 29, 1863 ---five months to the day from his enlistment at Indianapolis on August 29, 1862. (8)

However, this isn't the end of the story of Hiram. After his death his body was interred in Grave No. 3068 at Nashville, Tennessee. Over the years the family forgot the story of Hiram W. Thomas. In 1927 Howard wrote to the War Department in Washington, D. C. and received the surprising reply that Hiram was not buried in the National Cemetery at Nashville. An inquiry by the War Department of the superintendents of the private cemeteries in Nashville also failed to show his burial in any of them. Where could Hiram be buried?

Thirty-four more years were to pass by. Then on September 21, 1961, Howard received this letter in the mail:

> "I am in charge of decorating graves in the Leo Cemetery's I have a Hiram Thomas, Civil War veteran buried in Section 1 row 14 in the old Leo Cemetery. The head marker is deteriorated to the extent that the lettering cannot be made out. Hoping this is the information you need.
>
> Levon Bender, Box 7, Leo, Ind."

At long last Hiram's grave had been found. We immediately made application to the Government of the United States for a new

headstone for Hiram's grave, only to be turned down. The Department of the Army said their records showed Hiram to be buried in Grave No. 3068 at Nashville. Again Howard wrote to the Superintendent of the National Cemetery at Nashville, and again he was told another soldier lies in Grave No. 3068. More correspondence with the Government by us finally elicited an apology and an admission that they did not, in fact, know where Hiram was buried. A new Government-issue stone was eventually erected to replace the deteriorated one in the Leo Cemetery. However, the Leo Cemetery Association has no record of his grave on their cemetery plat. There is no positive proof that Hiram is buried in the Leo Cemetery, other than that Hiram's name has been carried on the list of names of soldiers whose graves are to be decorated on Memorial Day.

Our theory is this: because Hiram died in the middle of winter and very far from home,he was buried in Grave No. 3068 in the Nashville cemetery. Sometime later---perhaps the following summer or fall, after the crops were harvested, a decision was made by the grieving Rachel to bring the body of her husband back home to Indiana. Any of Hiram's many male relatives could have driven a team and wagon down to Nashville for the body. Maybe the trip down and back was made by train. (9) At any rate, Hiram's body was exhumed and carried back to Allen County where it was buried in the Leo Cemetery. (10)

This is the end of the story of Hiram. He was dead. but he left behind him a wife and two small children. The rest of this sketch will be about them and the events of their lives after the tragic death of their husband and father.

We believe that Rachel Lingafelt was the daughter of William and Elizabeth Lingafelt. (11) Howard found her in the 1850 federal census living in their household in Cedar Creek Township, Allen County. At the time the census was taken (January 2, 1851. Page 552) Rachel was fourteen years old. Her siblings were: Elizabeth (aged 21), James P. (aged 17), Deborah (aged 16), and Louisa (aged 11). All the Lingafelt children were born in Ohio.

From information on her tombstone, we calculated that Rachel was born February 11, 1836. She was twenty years, one month and 9 days old when she married Hiram. We have already told you that she accompanied her husband to Iowa after her marriage, probably to the home of her parents-in-law, the Hugh Thomases. There she gave birth to her first child, attended by Hannah Thomas and a woman named Elizabeth Blake.

Perhaps Rachel was homesick for her own people; maybe the young Thomases didn't like living in the comparative "wilderness" of Iowa; at any rate they went back to Indiana to live.

Rachel was almost twenty-six years old when her second baby

Thomas, Ethel
Story of a family

Riley 1973452

47

THE STORY OF A FAMILY

AUTHORS
Ethel Thomas
Dorothy Thomas Cozart

PREFACE

This is the story of a family, a very important family to the readers of this book, important because it is our family, the Thomases. There are five people who are most responsible for the writing of this book. First there is Howard Thomas of 55 McKinstry, Peru, Indiana. (You can see in the book how he is related to you). Second, there is Mrs. Loyce Dryden, Route 2, Sycamore, Indiana, and her mother Birdie Kelly. (Their relationship to you is also in the book.) These three people spent long hours searching in libraries and cemeteries, talking to relatives and working at their typewriters compiling information that was only incidental to their family history, but important to ours. We are most grateful to them for their invaluable help. Then there is Dorothy Thomas Cozart, who enjoyed learning about the family while she helped her aunt Ethel unravel many strands of many family lines. Last there is Ethel Thomas who wrote her memories of a family and who has managed to keep track of all the members of that family.

THE FAMILY OF WHICH I WRITE

THE STORY

Because we all like to know about our families and the life they lived years ago, I have set down together with this simple family record some of the recollections of my childhood. Of the home in which we lived, I remember well two rooms at the front of the house that stood facing the west and the road that passed in front. There were other two rooms at the back and two upstairs, but my earliest and most vivid memories take me to the room at the north that was used then as kitchen and dining room. How well I remember the kneeling for prayer about the breakfast table after father had read a lesson from the Bible! Before each meal, to be sure, either father or mother had asked the blessing.

There follow other memories of early religious training. There was the much loved hymn:

"I think when I read that sweet story of old
When Jesus was here among men,
How he brought little children as lambs to his fold.
How I should have liked to have been with him then!"

The picture was so vivid as mother repeated the lines that we felt ourselves a very part of that group about Jesus. Together we learned the Lord's prayer, and there was the simple one at night of:

"Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take."

That little prayer, offered in perfect trustfulness, was followed by immediate sleep. Going to bed, to be sure, did not necessitate going off to another room, for our trundle bed had only to be drawn out from under that of father's and mother's, and we were soon in and sound asleep.

I am sure that early training is not easily forgotten. I think of a Sunday in my childhood when father and mother needed to be away during the whole day. DeWitt was little more than a baby and they were taking him with them, explaining to Edith and me how we should be alone but could have a happy day together. Edith thought at once of what we might do first. We

would sew little sacks of cloth into which we would put seeds we had been saving. We had made several when suddenly Edith exclaimed, "Ethel, do you know what day this is? It is Sunday and we have been sewing." I don't remember what we found to do next, but I do remember how quickly and repentantly we put aside our sewing. Childhood memories! How they crowd in upon one another, and how filled with pleasure the recollections! There was the slow "Walk, walk, to Bandbury Cross" on father's knee, followed by the livelier "pace, pace" and the exciting, "trot, trot, with the final "gallop, gallop" that brought the thrilling climax.

And where did life begin for us?--you may be asking. Not in Indiana, once the home of our parents, but on the plains of Kansas in Ellsworth County at the very center of the state, seven miles east of Wilson. Here father had shipped lumber, cut and sawed in Indiana woods, to be used in the building of a home. He had come to Kansas three years before the time of his marriage to take a homestead. While proving up on his claim and building a house, he had taught the country school, living in a very tiny house he had laid together of stone, quarried in the quarter section east of his own. I remember that as we walked the half mile south to school and passed pieces of limestone, half covered with grass by the side of the road, older children reminded us that those stones had been left from the house where father had lived first.

There came another cutting of timber in Indiana when after three years father returned to his home to be married, this timber to be shipped to Kansas for the building of a barn. Hereby hangs a tale for on a cold, wintry morning, father had the misfortune to cut off the big toe on his right foot. Alone with a younger brother who could offer no help, he proceeded to sew the toe back on, held as it was by a bit of skin. His boots were new and tight fitting and the day cold, there was no bleeding to trouble, and the toe was soon on. Not strange that we sometimes heard him complain in winter of numbness in that toe. Father wore house slippers at his wedding, while mother had to listen to the teasing of her brothers about her future four toed children. The Livengoods were great at teasing.

The marriage certificate in the family Bible reads:

"This certifies that Michael Corwin Thomas and Alma Jane Livengood were solemnly united in the holy bonds of matrimony at Elkhart, Indiana on the twenty sixth day of December in the year of our Lord, One

Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Eight conformably to the ordinance of God and the laws of the state. In presence of Michael and Nancy Thomas
Abram and Mary Livengood"

My mother's family lived in the country near Elkhart but my father's family near Cedarville, not far from Fort Wayne, Indiana, half the width of the state apart, as you can see on the map. You may be wondering then, as I often did as a child, how two people--and exactly the right ones--came to find each other. In the case of my parents, they were both members of the United Brethren Church, my father's father, a minister of that church, so it was not strange that as young people they should attend their nearest United Brethren College which was at Roanoke, Indiana. Father had sisters studying there, too--Jennie and Lottie Thomas. So, I leave it all to your imagination since I have only mine to tell me. I do know that my mother once visited in the Thomas home.

The Livengood and the Thomas families were large, for in both a first wife had died, and there had been a second marriage. My own grandmother Livengood was not yet seventeen when she married and came into a home that had children practically of her own age. All called her mother and the deepest affection existed. There were Christopher, the oldest, whom I did not know, then Isaac, Ira, Joe, and one sister, Ann, always a companion for grandmother. I have been told that Aunt Ann was a very beautiful young woman and was engaged to be married, but was disappointed in her lover and remained at home. She was our very wonderful Aunt Ann when I knew her at seven. Of my mother's own brothers and sisters there were Edd, Rebekah, Will, Ellen, Martha, Fred, and Edith so that with my mother, who was Alma, there were eight. I am forgetting Annis, who died at thirteen. Grandfather Livengood's family was large with fourteen children.

We have said that Grandfather Michael Thomas was a minister of the United Brethren Church. He was, however, a minister of the Methodist Church in Ohio, making the change in denomination upon coming to Indiana. To him and his wife Charlotte Shippy, were born three sons, David, William and James, our Uncle David a soldier in the Civil War. It was while Grandfather Thomas lived in Ohio that his first wife died and there he later married a sister of his first wife, Drusilla Shippy. This wife died soon after the birth of their only child,

Luemma. My father was very fond of his older brothers and of this sister. I knew my Uncle David and Uncle William as a child, but not Uncle James who was living in California with his wife, Lanie, two daughters and two sons. The two daughters were engaged in work with the Salvation Army. Aunt Luemma was married and living in Michigan, and father made the trip alone to visit her. My own grandmother, Nancy Julia Griswold, was mother of eight of whom my father, Michael Corwin was the oldest, followed by Jennie, Fremont, Estella, Emma, Lottie, Clarence, and Evelyn. Clarence and Evelyn still lived in the home when I was there at seven; Aunt Emma Ashley lived not far away; Aunt Lottie Paff and her husband, Ellsworth, with Ted, Lyal and Edna visited at grandmothers. Aunt Estella Foster lived in Arkansas and Aunt Jennie Potter and Uncle Fremont in Colorado, but these last two with their families I knew later in Kansas.

I suppose that after their marriage father and mother left very soon for Kansas where father had the home ready and had grown accustomed to what were then barren plains. Trees, unless they had been planted and had had time to grow, were to be found only along creeks and rivers. No such stream was in sight of our home so I feel sure that mother must have missed the woods and orchards more than anything else left behind in Indiana. She told us once that she had longed, if she could do nothing more, to set up boards for shade--this as we sat in the shade at the back of the house. There was one rather large cottonwood not far from the house and another a great way off in a field. Toward spring when the supply of coal would be running low, mother must surely have gone with father in the big wagon to mines south of Wilson to bring a fresh supply of soft coal for the kitchen stove. At any rate, the Smoky Hill River ran near these mines, and mother told us of walking across the river without getting her shoes damp, so even along streams trees must have been scarce.

Trips in the big wagon took time, and often we waited for father to come home as it grew dark in the evening. We listened for the wagon to cross the bridge--it covered what was only a small culvert a few rods down the road to the south. Even before that we might have heard father talking to his horses with his "get u-up" or his "get along, boys". The hauling of wheat after threshing was occasion, too, for these slow trips with horses and wagon. Father often got off to walk beside his team. On one such occasion he lost his billfold of Russian leather.

It had in it papers, and to make the matter worse, a twenty dollar bill, not easily spared in those days nor in any. I suppose father simply said, "No use to cry over spilled milk", but with a strong hope for its return. The billfold was returned but not until fifteen years later. With it there came a letter explaining that at the time it had been picked up the finder had been badly in need of money. "Sorry to be late in returning it," he wrote as he signed himself "One Bohemian",--a lie for no Bohemian would have done it. It was with great satisfaction that father found a twenty dollar bill inside.

Buffalo, once plentiful, did not then inhabit the plains, but out in the pasture we found the hollows covered over with grass, that were the buffalo wallows. One animal entirely unknown in Indiana surprised mother one night and she came hurrying up from the cellar to tell father there was a badger down there. Father knowing that the animal had to be a skunk replied in a hurry, "Well, let that badger alone." And, really, skunks, unmolested, are not unamiable creatures. This one having been discovered, evidently took up quarters elsewhere. Once on a late afternoon in Oklahoma, I watched a skunk near a roadside followed by five young ones exactly in line.

Of much that was new in Kansas, neighbors were the most important. To the east and over the hill, really only a very slight elevation, lived Sally and Cyrus Underhill, very wonderful people from New York. Their home was a cave, or a dugout, a fascinating wonderland for children, for all about the large room were interesting things brought from the New York home. To this day I have a little silver pail given to me by Mrs. Underhill with the reminder that I had once liked to carry it about asking others to have "ice keam". To sister Edith she gave her brass preserving kettle, often loaned to mother for jelly making, the loan always sending Edith and me happily off for the borrowing and again for its return. In his years alone, father had come to have a rather special place in the Underhill affections, I take it. I know that it was a great satisfaction to Mrs. Underhill that after her husband's death when she was to go to live in town, father was able to buy her quarter section.

From the Underhill home we can look across the road and a little to the east to that of the Musselman's, whose two auburn haired daughters corresponded in age to Edith and myself. Parts of their property were already hedged with osage which came to be used quite commonly about the country. Across the road to the east in the middle of the section two brothers, Samuel and Abiram Weinhold from Pennsylvania, have their houses, barns and windmills in yards not far apart. Children of these families together with other Pennsylvania families form a strong nucleus today in the Lutheran Church that now stands a half mile south of their home. In our section a mile to the south of the Underhill's was the Klema home, one of various Bohemian families who had settled about, a people who became outstanding citizens. One other family completed those within our square mile--the Parke family with two sons and a daughter, Emma, who was my age, lived a half mile south of us. Not far beyond to the south stood our country school house, and three-quarters of a mile farther to the south in the next section lived Mr. White with May and LeFevre. The mother who was French was not living.

Our parents were married on the day after Christmas in 1878 and on March 22, 1880 sister Edith May was born. Little Clarence was born on August 8, 1881, but because of a defect in the valvular action of the heart, he lived only two months and a day. I, Ethel Estella, was born February 17, 1883. Mother had gone a month before that time to her home in Indiana, so I was born a Hoosier, but having been brought to Kansas at three weeks, I have always counted myself a Jayhawker as well. Brother DeWitt, Corwin DeWitt, arrived on election day, November 6, 1884, while little Florence Lavantia was born on June 24, 1886, but died of lung fever, as it was known then, on February 12, 1887. When four years old, I can remember how with mother and Edith we sat about the heating stove one winter afternoon and talked of the little sister who had gone. Often when I went for the cows in the evening I looked long and carefully for an opening in the sky that might be the way into heaven. Irving was born May 19, 1888, and Mary Julia on July 13, 1890.

Early in November in 1890 after the wheat had been planted, father and mother took us to Indiana in a covered wagon drawn by two ponies, Tipsy and Topsy, and a one seated one horse buggy which sister Edith drove, usually accompanied by a brother or a sister, following the light wagon. The light wagon had a comfortable bed on springs where DeWitt and I slept together with mother, Irving and baby Mary. Father and Edith had a bed on the ground under the wagon, canvas curtains drawn securely about.

Father and mother were young and I have always thought they enjoyed the trip as fully as did their children. Certainly, there was something of interest to be done or seen from the

time we were up in the morning until we began to look for a camping place in the late afternoon, found it, had our camp supper, and were soon in bed. There were always kind and interesting people to know, but perhaps we all remembered best a family who had nothing to share besides their corn bread and molasses, however, insisted upon our sitting at table with them. The woods had us all enchanted. There was the day we came upon the man with a bear. Back in Kansas for his first year of school when his class was asked how many had ever seen a bear, DeWitt answered that he had. The next question was "Where?" and he replied, "in the woods". The cities we passed through I never forget--Rock Island, Moline, Davenport. They seemed to me a single city. We had chain cities even then. And there were the rivers we crossed, still more interesting. We forded the Des Moines, and were ferried across the Cedar. As we crossed the long, long bridge over the Mississippi, a stake from a broken board flew up and caught one of the ponies under a front leg, laming her, but not seriously. This was fortunate for we still had two states to cross, travel that grew more exciting each day.

It was a happy family that arrived at grandmother Thomas' home early in December, although I know now what I little realized then, that for my father and his mother there was a deep sadness, for grandfather was not there. Two years before as he was driving with grandmother to Fort Wayne their team had run away; grandfather was thrown from the wagon and seriously injured. His fortitude in suffering and his strong faith made his last days beautiful. He died at Fort Wayne on April 7, 1880, at the age of 66, a strong and able man before this accident. With our grandmother in the home were the two youngest of father's brothers and sisters, Clarence and Evelyn. Father and mother had always seemed young to me, and now I was charmed by my youthful aunt and uncle. No less, perhaps, was I delighted to go to the home of Aunt Lavantia and Uncle William, father's older brother who lived in a house across the road from grandmother. Across the road, too, and only a little farther away was the brick school house where Edith and I were allowed to spend some days at school.

The school days were not many, however, for when father had come from a short visit with his sister Luemma Henderson in Michigan, we went to visit Aunt Emma and Uncle Hale Ashley who lived not far away in the country near Cedarville. Christmas came soon and happy days all ran together. It will not do

to forget the great barn that was on the farm, almost too big to play in without fear of getting lost. The ponies and old Poll, when at grandmother's, did not need to be picketed out at night. Grandmother's house was large and full of interest. The woods were near by and there were lots of nuts. Life had very much that was new.

But there was the home of another grandmother to be visited. Again we set out but this time with only a relatively short distance between Fort Wayne and Elkhart where, a couple of miles from town, we found grandmother's brick house with grandmother, Aunt Ann, and Aunt Edith. Here, too, mother's father had left the home, that cheery father of whom mother had often told us. He had come to Indiana from Pennsylvania--Pennsylvania Dutch, if you please, a grandfather who liked to set out a couple of hours before the family, if a trip was to be made, to walk while the others drove; a grandfather who delighted in his birds, especially his snowbirds, and could tell you what they said. Aunt Ellen, too, with our cousin Ernest, was often in the home when Uncle Castle, who was a bishop in the United Brethren Church, needed to be away. I was fascinated when he came, not with the fact that he was a bishop, which meant nothing to me, but with his magnificent beard. I knew him first as we sat at supper. Mother drew me apart afterward to say, "Ethel, you mustn't simply sit and stare at your Uncle Castle."

Gradually the new of everything wore off. The brick house here was even bigger than the frame house at Grandmother Thomas' and so was the barn. The house held much that was enchanting. Just inside the door was the grandfather clock whose winding each night necessitated the lifting of the weight at the end of a chain that during the day had arrived at the floor, and there was the spinning wheel in the garret and out in the yard the great black kettle for making soap. Our Uncle Albert and Aunt Maggie lived not far away, Uncle Albert running the farm. There was a fine grove of walnut trees on one side of the drive entering the property. The woods that were a mile away were most wonderful for us because of the sugar making that took place there in the spring, where for a time we lived in a log cabin.

While we were having our first good visit at grandmother's, Edith and I went to the country school that was not far away; later we went to live in Elkhart where we were in school. We may have stayed longer at grandmother's home than we should

otherwise have done, had not sister Mary, the baby, become ill with lung fever. She was very sick and Dr. Work came often from Elkhart. One evening late, we were all allowed to kiss her goodnight; the crisis passed and Mary lived. I remember hearing father say that only in the warm house and with a doctor near at hand could her life have been saved. It was a time of great rejoicing.

School in a city seemed different from the country schools we had known. Aunt Anna was teaching and Uncle David Thomas was superintendent of schools in Elkhart. He was most encouraging and predicted that we would soon make other pupils sit up and take notice. However that may have been, I remember that during the first days my one thought was to get home ' mother. Even DeWitt, not yet ready for school had his trying experiences. Sent to the corner store for eggs, he was given a small sack with nails, and came back saying, "Mother, see what they gave me." With mother's encouragement, he agreed to go right back with the nails to insist that he had asked for eggs. City ways were disconcerting. I met a man riding a bicycle on the sidewalk where, no doubt, I had as much right as he. My attempts to pass didn't suit him, for I remember his exasperated, "Well, go one way or the other", exactly what I had been trying to do.

53

Uncle Will Livengood and Aunt Florence lived in Elkhart. Cora and Bert of their children were grown up, but Martha and Mary were my age. We were most likely to find ourselves together, however, when at grandmother's in the country. One opportunity to be with our family and Uncle Will's I missed completely, for I had been allowed to go to grandmother's on Friday evening. On Saturday Aunt Martha and Uncle Edgar Pontius arrived. They were newly married, Uncle Edgar a young preacher, and both in love with life and each other. I followed them about fascinated. They began early to plant potatoes and I was allowed to drop. Father came from town to say that our family was going with Uncle Will's on a fishing trip and didn't want me to be left out. But fishing trips had no lure for me when I could be with Aunt Martha and Uncle Edgar planting potatoes. I have wondered if, when I visited at their preaching point in Nebraska years afterward, I thought to remind them of that never to be forgotten day of planting potatoes.

Spring had come and it was time to be getting back to Kansas. The ponies had been sold upon coming to Elkhart, and we were to return by train, however many there were of us to have tick-

ets, even though only half fare. Sister Edith with father and Irving were in one car and mother and the rest of us in the one behind. I suppose a divided family was most easily managed, although even that had its difficulties for there was the time Irving came into the car, shouting as he left Edith in the doorway--"She didn't get me!" Of us all I think Irving enjoyed the trip most, especially when we had arrived in Kansas and restraints seemed to be removed. The conductor called Wamego, and he shouted, "Want me to go, Mother? Want me to go?" At the call of Junction City, he jumped joyfully up and down, crying out "jumping city! jumping city!" The trip home had ended and there was LeFevre to meet us. But LeFevre you haven't known yet, as wonderful a friend as children ever had, a friend and play fellow.

It was still early spring. The wheat fields were beautifully green. Father had left one small field for corn and began at once to plant. Mother was eager to make garden with help from Edith and me -- more from Edith for mother called me her baby tender, a very pleasant task with the little wagon, the baby propped to sit when wide awake and lying down when beginning to grow sleepy. Evenings were still long and we were glad for father's reading from "The Youths' Companion" at night while mother knitted or mended -- knitted usually, for we wore long woolen stockings to school in the winter.

Harvest came early and was over by the Fourth of July. The threshing followed soon, showing a bumper crop. Plowing began at once. Edith did some harrowing that year riding one of the two horses that drew the harrow. On a very hot day in August we had finished the noon meal and had left the table. I had gone into the yard when I saw mother running toward the house crying out that the house was on fire. And so it was. Neighbors had seen smoke coming from the roof and came running with pails. The fire had to be fought with water brought from the tank in the barn yard, but soon effort centered upon getting all the furniture out from the first floor of the house. Mother put baby Mary into my arms telling me to take her far from the fire. Anxious to take good care of the baby, I went with her out to the edge of the corn field. Mary was to tell me years after that she had never forgiven me for not letting her watch the fire. The fire burned incredibly fast, but the household goods from the first floor were safe in the yard. Unfortunately, all winter clothing had been put away upstairs. The same friendly neighbors helped to move us to an unoccupied farm

house, a cottage, a quarter of a mile to the north and a quarter to the west. We were together that night in this strange new home, yet we seemed to be living away from home.

I think now of how difficult that year, or part of a year, was for father and mother. It was a half mile that mother walked to care for her garden and chickens, while each morning and evening father came carrying home two pails of milk. There was the night that he walked in the face of a blizzard and could not tell when to turn west at the corner. He walked on knowing that he would come to a bridge where he would turn around and go back. With the wind at his back, he was able to find the corner and turn to the west.

Winter was over and gone. Plans had been made for the new house, a very warmly built house with two basement rooms, the entrance to the basement at the south. An inner stairway led to the second floor where there was a large living room and a roomy bedroom with a big closet. From the bedroom, stairs led to two rooms above, rooms that faced the west. There were no windows on the north where the plan was to build on later. Since only two rooms were built upstairs, the roof sloped rapidly to the east giving the house a peculiar appearance, as a high school friend of Mary's coming to spend Saturday and Sunday discovered. "Oh, what a funny looking house!" she exclaimed as it came in sight. "Yes," Mary said, "that's where we are going". However peculiar the house may have looked and inadequate in size, it was a wonderful home and had always room for others. Sister Lotta was born on October 6, 1892.

It must have been in the summer after the house was built that Uncle Fremont Thomas and Aunt Bess with Berenice and Clarence came to make us a short visit. Berenice and DeWitt and I were much the same age. Clarence called Irving his playboy. There were care free days together while mother and Aunt Bess dried corn and Uncle Fremont accompanied father in work about the farm. Aunt Bess gave some special time to Edith and me, leaving Berenice curled up reading, as she helped us to sing. She encouraged me to try to sit near someone at church and Sunday School who sang alto, a thing I was never able to do. Years later DeWitt said of my singing, "Ethel, I'd hate to hear you sing a solo; there'd be so many places where you wouldn't sing." Aunt Bess had her oil paints with her and helped us each to make a vase, painting a spray of flowers on a dark bottle. Edith, later, painted some very beautiful pictures in water color and pastel. With a ruler I learned

to make a very good picture of a box, but never attempted more. Evidently, I had much help with the vase. My love and admiration for Aunt Bess and Uncle Fremont were boundless. I didn't follow them about as at seven I had my Aunt Martha and Uncle Edgar, but I felt for them the deep affection that left me with a feeling of loneliness for days after they were gone.

Corn was very important that year for it was the first of three wheat crop failures when father had plowed up the winter-killed wheat to plant corn, with nothing said more than, "better luck next time". Mother had an especially fine garden at the edge of a field north of the house near the cottonwood tree. It was while picking tomatoes that she lost her wedding ring, and looked for it for years afterward, not to be interested in any promise of father's that he would get her another. It was long after the old garden plot had become part of a plowed field that mother came in with her wedding ring when none of us supposed that she still looked for it. I left my writing a moment just now to go upstairs to assure myself that the ring was safe and to slip it on to the ring finger of my left hand, for mother gave me her ring to keep. Time now to be giving it to some niece, who will cherish it.

I go back to the years of crop failures which for us as children were years of abundance. Nothing could have tasted better than corn bread with sugar syrup at noon, or mush and milk at supper time, and never were there such squash, pumpkins, turnips, dried corn and canned tomatoes. Money wasn't plentiful, to be sure, and I remember how father wrote to "The Youth's Companion" to ask that it be kept coming without pay, as it did for three years until a new subscription and those overdue could be paid. They may have been anxious years for our parents, but for us they were years of plenty. In the last of them father wrote to his brother David, and there came some rather well used clothing. Out of a pair of trousers I had a beautiful navy blue jacket. There was no parcel post then, but from some relative in Indiana there came a sack of nuts from their woods. And we never were without a few sticks of candy brought home with the groceries -- horehound, winter-green, pepper-mint -- while ice bought from an ice cellar in town resulted in the creamiest and best ice cream anyone ever ate. Made in a gallon sized dinner pail, packed about with ice and salt, we were glad to keep turning the pail, with mother loosening the frozen cream from the sides and stirring occasionally. No, if we were poor, we didn't know it. And what fun we could

54

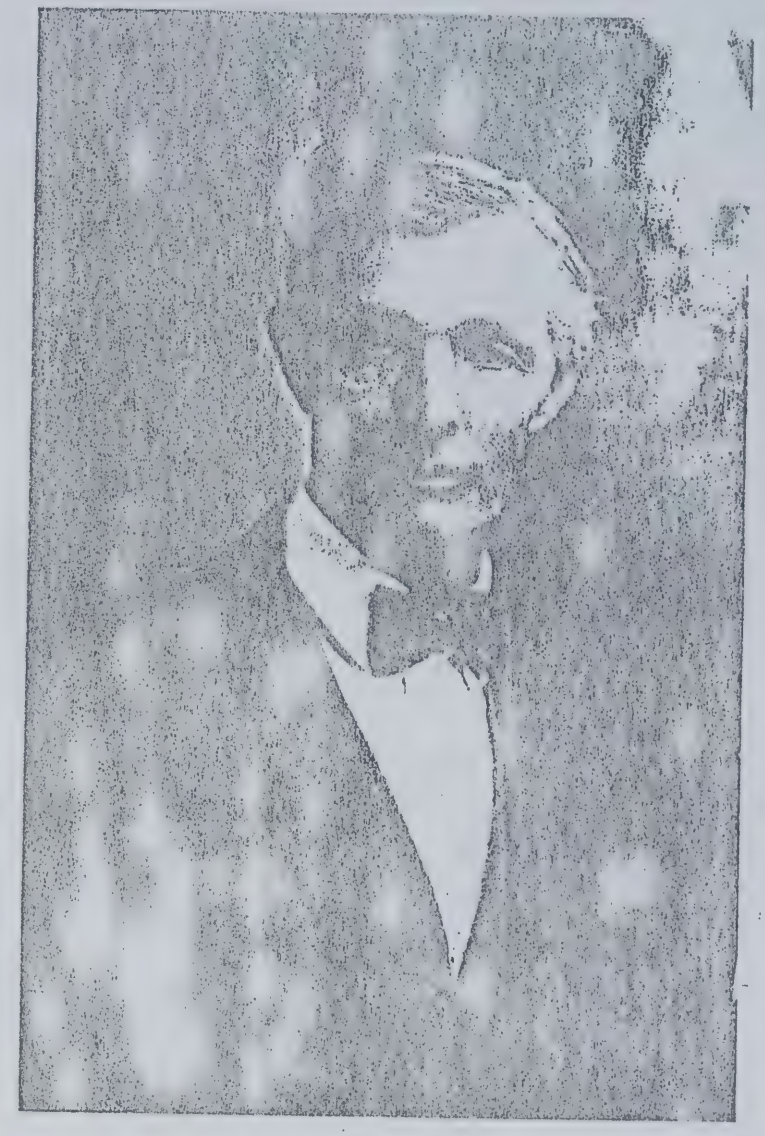
invent! Playing Indian, perhaps the most exciting. I wonder today at children playing for hours in the sun. Mother wondered, too, and urged us to come in as we sat trickling water into the holes of some ground bees to see them come out. We must not have done them harm, for they soon returned.

On May the 10th, 1894, sister Ruth was born. Bessie Ruth we called her, and not Ruth Elizabeth until much later. Ruth seemed very much to belong to me when little Esther was born on September 17th, 1896, for I was almost thirteen and could help mother in many ways. Edith was at school in Wilson, having entered the eighth grade before going on to High School. She lived in the home of two much esteemed early settlers who had no children. The weekly trip to town was planned so that she could come home at four on Friday. When that much counted on trip failed one Friday, Edith came walking home, the seven and three-fourths miles. She was as greatly missed in the home as she missed being there. She was now in her first year of High School. It had been very hard for her to return in September for a great sadness had come to our home. It had seemed to us all that there had never been a baby so beautiful as our little sister Esther, and truly, she was a beautiful child. But born just after the middle of September in 1896, she died with whooping cough that turned into pneumonia on August 3, 1897.

55

Edith had entered the eighth grade at Wilson for there was no definite system of grading in our country school -- one might simply continue. If a teacher came who could teach algebra that subject might be added to the course, and possibly book keeping and civics, but beyond eighth grade, nothing could certainly be counted on. When I had arrived at that stage in my education, I persuaded my parents to allow me to go to Ellsworth to take the county examination for a third grade teacher's certificate when I was fifteen. I didn't pass, so went another year to country school, but in August attended the month of normal before taking a second examination. I passed. It was not against the law to teach at sixteen, so that year found me teaching a country school four miles from home. There were seven pupils, one a beginner, the son of a member of the school board, one a big Bohemian boy, older than myself, who came during the coldest months of winter, and five children of a Russian family, the most eager and pains-taking pupils a teacher could have.

It was during the next year that county examinations were offered all country pupils ready to complete the eighth grade.



DeWitt passed his examination, and together we entered High School at Ellsworth that fall. Being away from home was a difficult experience for us both, and only the certainty of going home at the end of the week bolstered our determination to stick it out. Rain or shine, in blizzard or fair weather, father drove the eighteen miles to bring us home and take us back. Never was there an absence mark. It helped that our superintendent, E. T. Fairchild, later State Superintendent of Schools, had been our County Superintendent for a few years. He taught a botany class for freshmen, at first addressing his pupils with Mr. and Miss. He must certainly have understood how strange two of his class were feeling, for he let everyone know that we were old friends of his by beginning at once to call us DeWitt and Ethel. The charm and tact of our principal, Miss Daisy Zaninger, the forming of friendships, the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Wanasek of whom our two upstairs rooms were rented, and our determination never to go to school without every lesson carefully prepared, all helped us in those homesick days. And at the end of every week, we did go home. Sometimes we went by train to Blackwolf where there was a stop at a grain elevator and father met us, with a saving of half the distance for himself and the team. On one arrival at Blackwolf a stranger met us. He plainly expected to be recognized, and with some difficulty we realized that he was our father without his whiskers. At home we found Mary indignant about the matter, and Lotta, who could never bear to hear her father criticized, saying that it was his beard and he had the right to do with it as he pleased. So it was, and gradually we became accustomed to the change, even liked it.

When Edith had finished High School, she taught for a year at the Columbia District School where I had taught, and after that year entered the Normal of the Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. After her graduation, she taught in primary grades at Portis, Kansas until May, 1907, shortly before her marriage in that year. DeWitt and I had entered Baker University in the fall of 1904. I remember well Edith's letter written us there, telling us of her engagement to the lumberman at Portis. We pictured a sedate business man. It was in the summer of 1906 that mother spent a week with Edith at Chautauqua in beautiful Lincoln Park, not far from Portis. On one Saturday evening Booker T. Washington was to speak, and father, DeWitt and I drove to hear this great man and inspiring speaker. It was an occasion to remember because of this opportunity, and it was

then, too, that we first knew Frank Schiller of whom Edith had written. The lumberman was not at all as we had pictured him, but a great, overgrown lad, a year younger than myself, who caused DeWitt to exclaim, "We might have known Edith would have a kid." That exclamation may have described somewhat Edith's tastes and the youthful appearance of her fiance, but they carried no intimation of the fortitude and rugged determination that had enabled Frank Schiller, left an orphan at an early age, first by the death of his mother, who was French, and soon after by that of his father who was German, as he worked to put himself through high school, and saw to it that his younger brother, Walter, had an easier time as he continued in school and made a start in life. Frank once told me something of his boyhood struggles, concluding his account, "and then I met Edie", his words suggesting the fairy tale ending, "and they lived happily ever after."

But the younger members of our family are being neglected. Perhaps, the family did seem to fall into two groups. At any rate, two young seminary students, helping with the harvest that summer, told with amusement of asking Mary how many children there were in the family. She replied, "Well, there are Edith and Ethel, and DeWitt and Irving, and then all the little ones besides," the little ones quite ably headed by Mary, herself. However, Lotta and Ruth had minds of their own and kept the balance. Mary's reaction to the idea of having the family circle broken by marriage was somewhat violent. Without consulting anyone, she managed to get a letter off to Frank Schiller. We had rural mail delivery now, and going the mile east to take letters and to bring the mail often fell to Mary herself. However she managed it, Frank was surprised by a letter, telling him that he was making a great mistake when he thought of marrying Edith. What arguments she advanced we never knew. Frank may have been curious about the youthful sister-in-law he was acquiring, but was not influenced in his intention to marry her sister.

Many happy hours for these younger sisters were spent in their playhouse, an enormous packing box, with an addition for a kitchen, that stood under a honey locust tree a few rods south of our basement entrance, a wild grape vine almost covering both the tree and playhouse. A path led on to the orchard, arriving soon at a tree of summer apples with peach trees beyond, while at the south edge of the large orchard was a grove of honey locust where both a swing and a hammock were to be

found. Adventures, to be sure, often led beyond the playhouse. There once was a buggy ride, with no buggy but only the new whip bought to be placed in its socket when that vehicle was to be used. At other times it was carefully put away in the clothes closet off the downstairs bedroom. Father came in one day for the whip and was surprised to find it broken. I heard mother say, "Well, father, you know how many things are crowded into that closet." Long afterward we heard of the trip in the imagined buggy, down the road and beyond the bridge with the whip in vigorous use. There were always pets, especially cats, Maltese, bluish gray. Mary had her own cat, well known to her by the tip of its tail, crooked because the last joint had been broken. Mice were finding their way into LeFevre's bachelor quarters in the fall and he asked for a cat, a request that was readily granted. It was late and children were in bed. When it was known the next morning that a cat had been given away, Mary rushed out to meet the cats that sprang to meet one when the basement door opened. There was no cat with a crooked tail. She scarcely waited for her breakfast before she was off to recover her cat. LeFevre might have as many cats as he wished, if not hers.

But the little ones were growing up as their elders grew older. Mary surprised me one spring when I came from Baldwin by asking, "Ethel, if I want to let Bill Hunter haul me about a little, don't you think it is all right?" --my first intimation of a country beau. Irving was never well when not in the open and active. He did not finish high school, but went to eastern Colorado where he did some pioneer farming, and DeWitt joined him one summer after a year of teaching between his junior and senior years at college. It was in the spring of 1908 that I finished at Baker and father and mother and DeWitt were there for my graduation.

A change was being made in our home. We were to move from Ellsworth County to a farm just across the line in Oklahoma, south and a little east of Anthony, Kansas. Mother and Father had come from Oklahoma to Baldwin. Mary was to remain there with mother while father with DeWitt and Ruth and Lotta returned to the farm near Wilson for the sale of farm machinery and some household goods. I joined them at Wilson and was able to manage the dinner at the sale, and then to help pack household goods into the two covered wagons for the trip. DeWitt and I had memories of our childhood travel, but found ourselves now with greater responsibilities, shared as capably

by Ruth and Lotta. I remember DeWitt's, "I wish, Ethel, that you would let Ruth show you how to put up the lines," indirect praise not appreciated by Ruth, who never wished to be singled out. The trip of a few days to Oklahoma were entirely pleasant and the reunion of family, unforgettable. Mary had been watching and came down the road to meet us. As we clambered out of the wagon to greet her, we realized that she was crying. I almost shook her as I demanded to know if something were wrong with mother. Nothing was wrong. Mary cried for pure joy.

Life on the state line was interesting. A mile to the west on the Kansas side lived Uncle Joe Livengood, of whom we had heard much and felt half jealous when Uncle Fremont's family talked of Uncle Joe, not their uncle at all. A half mile farther on, Uncle Edd and Aunt Becca Livengood lived, mother's bachelor brother and his sister, who had joined him in Kansas and kept house for him. Aunt Lavina, Uncle Joe's wife, was not living, but his son, Clem, had married and his wife, Pearl, kept the home. His daughter, May, and her Ohio husband, Fred Rife, with their exciting family of seven lived five miles south of Anthony, while Eva Lonas, his other daughter, lived several miles to the north of us. In that family there were three daughters and one son.

There was scarcely more than time to know one's relatives, yes, and to go on a fishing trip to the beautiful Chikaskia River before DeWitt had to leave for Baldwin, and I for Ellsworth where I was to teach in the High School. Mary continued her high school in Anthony, while Ruth and Lotta went one year to the country school two miles and a quarter from home before entering the same high school. This country school house, by the way, served the community for church and Sunday School. People were of different denominations; the Cook literature was used for the Sunday School, but for church it was an itinerant Methodist minister who was available for the afternoon service every other Sunday, an hour for church school and church to which our family had not been accustomed. It was just before school closed for Christmas that Frank and Edith came to Ellsworth, and the next day we took the train for Wichita and on to Wakita. Irving had come and we were all together in the new home for the holiday season in 1908.

Summer was a home coming time, as well. DeWitt helped father on the farm, and Mary later taught a country school not far away. In fact, except for Irving, we all did some teaching, as father and mother had before us. On a couple of summers I

noted the visits of a young man from Anthony who came driving a beautiful team of horses. We all enjoyed Alvin Prouse, but his attention centered on Mary, and on the 16th of October, 1912 they were married and went to live on a farm not far away in Oklahoma. After a year there they moved to Yuma, Arizona where they did prosperous, but very dry farming, before going later to California. It was in California that father and mother spent a month with them one summer and were taken on many very delightful trips. Alvin was wonderful for his outgoing spirit, his whole hearted enjoyment of life and his ability to make everyone about him happy. I remember mother's words when they returned, "No son could have been more attentive than Alvin."

It was in the spring of 1915. Edith with Francis and Katherine, still a baby, had driven in their car to make us a visit. Irving had come from Colorado, not planning to return. He was seen consulting with Edith one late afternoon, and soon after was driving happily away in the car he had arranged to borrow. This may have marked the beginning of his courting of Gladys Brooks, whose father was the superintendent of our Sunday School and a member of the choir, their home nearer Wakita than to the state line. From this time, at any rate, things moved rapidly. They soon married and lived on a rented farm about half way to Wakita. Life seemed full of promise. But it was during the first world war, and Irving entered military service. He and Gladys were expecting their first child. I remember hearing Ruth and Lotta asking him which he would like best--a boy or a girl, and hearing him reply, "I would like a boy or a girl."

But it was not until he was in France that their little Gladys Marie was born. Father and mother went with Gladys to visit him at his training base before he left for France, almost as the war was closing. His contribution was to help remove the dead and the dying from the battle field -- a grim experience for a young man from a farm. Small wonder that mother should say later, "The boy I sent away did not come back to me." Irving returned to begin his farming over again, getting together machinery as best he could. The struggle was hard, but he had the help of a brave and cheerful wife.

The years of teaching at Ellsworth seemed to pass quickly. At the end of the first year there was a visit with Edith and Frank at Portis before going to Lawrence for summer school at Kansas University -- Virgil, swimming and tennis. Miss Francis

Sabin at the University of Wisconsin was convincing everyone of the need for the study of Latin, and I spent my third summer in Madison. Here swimming was in the lake. A part of each summer was spent at home, but all of the school year of 1912 and 1913 I spent at home in Oklahoma, a very wonderful year of my life. Lotta and Ruth were in High School at Anthony, father's trips parallelling in distance those made to and from Ellsworth, now however, in a Maxwell. Occasionally, friends of the girls came with them from Anthony for a week end. For me life was leisurely, with time to enjoy relatives and neighbors and the life of the community. The best of that year was simply to be at home. Mother did not now knit socks, and stockings; summer afternoons found her reading or tatting. The winter proved severe, and we made more than one quilt with squares cut from well worn clothing brought from the attic.

For me the fall of 1914 marked the beginning of six years of teaching in the High School at Manhattan, Kansas where, after their graduation at Anthony in the spring of 1915, Lotta and Ruth joined me to enter upon a Home Economics course at Kansas State University, Ruth to finish the course, Lotta, after that year, to begin to teach in country schools in Kansas, not far from the home in Oklahoma. It was at the end of her junior year that Ruth was chosen by the college Y.W.C.A. to represent them at their summer conference at Lake Geneva in Wisconsin. Except for a summer quarter at the University of Chicago, I was at home during the summer months, and always for the Christmas vacation. DeWitt, now with father on the farm, Irving and Gladys and little Gladys Marie, the two sisters and I, together with father and mother, made a family of nine on Christmas day. It was on the day after Christmas of that year that sister Ruth was married to Charles Enlow of Harper, Kansas, a town not far from Anthony. Their acquaintance, however, had been made while in college in Manhattan, resulting in a growing friendship, and finally in courtship and marriage. Charles was to continue his studies for a year in the Agronomy Department at Kansas State, afterward entering upon work with the government in the study of soils, of crops suited to different localities, experiments with grasses--work that ultimately took him to Washington, and even abroad. In difficult times or in prosperous, he never stood alone. Where Ruth was, life had always a sparkle.

Go back with me for a moment to my girlhood. Across the road in front of our school house in an open meadow, a large

tent has been set up with planks for seating. Here an Epworth League rally is being held, with young people coming from different communities. The interest and enthusiasm are great, the singing inspiring, but outstanding in my memory is the address of a young man, years later to become Dr. W. D. Schermerhorn, a missionary to India. As he told in simple fashion of the needs of the people of India and of other lands, there came to me the thought that I might sometime be a missionary, an idea never expressed, but not forgotten. In the late winter of 1919 I believed the time had come, and wrote Miss Ella M. Watson of the Topeka Branch of our Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Before school was out that spring I knew that I had been accepted as a missionary to some Latin American country, a choice mentioned because of my years of teaching Latin. There was need for a teacher just outside of Mexico City, and there, somewhat surprised to be sent to a country so near home, I was happy to go. In the fall of the year a great missionary meeting was to be attended in Boston, and later one in Topeka where I was commissioned.

On the first day of the new year--1920--brother DeWitt drove me to Medford, county seat of Grant County, Oklahoma, and saw me off on the train. He told me that afterward he would go to see the County Agent about matters pertaining to the Grange of which he and neighboring farmers near Wakita were members. The County Agent proved to be Mrs. Daisy Elder, a widow, the mother of two small children. I have not been told how the romance developed, but on June 3, 1920 Daisy Newcomb Elder and DeWitt Corwin Thomas were united in marriage. In the fall of that year father and mother moved to Winfield, Kansas, finding them a home at 1601 East 11th, just beyond the city limit, where father had room for gardening and mother, for her chickens. Without waiting five years for a furlough, I came home at the end of three years during a part of the two month winter vacation for schools in Mexico.

Brothers and sisters living near enough, gathered at Winfield, and later, father drove me to the old home on the state line where DeWitt lived now and Irving, a half mile to the south on a part of the home farm. We stayed with Irving and Gladys in their neat little four room cottage and made visits to DeWitt and Daisy. One evening at DeWitt's I remember especially, Irving's delight as we gathered about the piano with Gladys playing. But we had a third visit to make, for on the 2nd of June Lotta had married Charlie Lime and they were living not

far away on a farm near Danville, Kansas. We made them a late afternoon and overnight visit for Lotta was still teaching. Mother had told how helpful Charlie had been when they moved to Winfield and it was plain to see she considered him a most acceptable son-in-law. It was good, indeed, to be with Lotta, but when she left for school in the morning, father and I went back to Irving's where I needed more time to enjoy little Gladys Marie, who had arrived while I was in Mexico, then on to DeWitt's where Dorothy Mary was a grandniece equally new to me.

It was not until the summer of 1925 that I was able to come home on furlough. I found father and mother well and enjoying the home at Winfield. At one time or another all my brothers and sisters came to visit and on one memorable occasion, we were all there at once. In the fall, leaving me to look after the chickens and the sale of eggs, father and mother went to spend a month with relatives in Indiana. It was an especially happy time for them, although mother confessed that it had been hard for her to follow the simple diet to which she was accustomed when at home. Together again, the time passed happily. It was not until the first of the year that I was to leave for study.

On the last Sunday before I left for the winter and spring quarters at the University of Chicago, we spent a long evening visiting together. Father had often spoken of his Uncle Jonathan, and had mentioned Jonathan's son Fletcher, but not his daughters, Lisbian and Sarah. Lisbian had married Bedine, father said, and Sarah, a man named Surface. Liverton, he said, was a name often used in the Thomas family. I jotted down these names which I had not heard before, a fact for which I have been glad as, in the last few years, I have made some study of the Thomas family history. The recurring name of Liverton has impressed me, and too, the early homes in Pennsylvania and Ohio before the settlement in Indiana, all of which father spoke that night. We talked, too, of father's mother, Nancy Julia Griswold, and of the Ashley and Griswold families. The next day I was off for study.

When the study in Chicago was finished, I went to nearby Elkhart for a few days with Aunt Edith, who after Grandmother's death had married Leonard Whittig, Uncle Len, as we knew and loved him. He was a relative of grandmother, with all the affable qualities of the Livengoods. And then I was off for home, where I still had time with my parents. A first furlough allowed for fifteen months away from work. However, before that time was fully up, a flood at the school in Mexico made an

earlier return necessary, and very soon I was ready to go. Mother said to me as she and father bade me goodbye at the train, "Tell them, Ethel, that I am glad to send you back." My wonderful, wonderful mother!

School closed in Mexico at the end of November, to reopen in February. The new school year had only well begun when word came that mother was seriously ill. I left at once, to find upon arriving that mother was recovering, and very soon seemed well once more. But there came another stroke. After a short time of unconsciousness, she roused to say, "I shall not get well, but it is all right." She slipped away quietly on the 29th of March, 1927.

I remained to keep the home for father. After several months Irving and Gladys came to be with him for a couple of years, and with their coming, I returned to my work. Father and mother had begun early to plan the distribution of property, and with the cooperation of sons and daughters, father now made final arrangements. Relieved of responsibilities, he felt free to make visits he desired to make, going first to Indiana to spend some time with relatives, and afterward with Ruth and Charles Enlow, Barbara and Robert in Tallahassee, Florida. There I joined them for a week at Christmas. Father said as I left that if it were not that he had barely arrived, he should like to go with me to Mexico. When another Christmas had come, father had gone to be with sister Mary in Long Beach, California, and there I went for a couple of weeks at Christmas. This time Father had had his visit and was ready to go with me when I returned to Mexico.

In Mexico the elderly person is the honored one in the home and from both pupils and teachers father received such courtly and kindly treatment that he marveled at the kindness shown him. He had thought that he might be helpful to the two men who worked on the school farm, but he soon declared that the men knew more about their gardening and planting than he did. He enjoyed watching them at their work as he strolled about the eleven acre farm. When the girls at the school were not in classes, they delighted in teaching him words in Spanish. Father greatly enjoyed our Federation of Christian Workers which held its first meeting of the year with us at the school.

But the altitude of Mexico City proved too high for father and we were compelled to come home. On the first part of our train trip father may have been only semi-conscious. He made a short prayer aloud, then a moment or two later looked up,

with a slightly embarrassed smile to say, "I guess I was saying my prayers." The trip home was made with no great difficulty for father, and we arrived safely in Abilene to be with sister Edith in the Schiller home. Father enjoyed his coming to be with Edith. Questioned by the doctor who came to see him, how he had liked Mexico, he replied quickly that he only wished he might have stayed longer. To his grand-daughter's request that he tell them what girls in Mexico were like, he answered in surprise, "Why, just like you."

Father's heart had served him well, but there came gall bladder trouble, and he was obliged to be in bed. DeWitt came to see him, and after a happy evening he said, "Why, if Father weren't in bed, we would never know that he was ill." It was not long, however, before father slipped into a coma. Again his thoughts revealed themselves in words spoken unconsciously, "Yes, I know," he said softly, "our part to forgive." Repentance came before forgiveness, father had always rightfully contended, but now as he had always known in his heart, he agreed that there must be readiness on our part to forgive.

About the grave when mother was laid to rest in the cemetary near Wilson where little Clarence, little Florence and little Esther were buried, we sang a hymn she had often sung about her work:

"O happy day, that fixed my choice
On Thee, my Saviour and my God!
Happy day, happy day
When Jesus washed my sins away:
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day.
Happy day, happy day
When Jesus washed my sins away."

So we sang at father's burial a hymn, some part of which he was often heard to sing, as a prayer, I feel sure:

"Come Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace,
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise . . . .
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love."

The Ashley-Griswold Family

The information given below was dictated by Jane Ashley, the oldest grandchild of John Ashley, in 1900 at Niles, Berrien County, Michigan.

John Ashley and wife came from England. They had four children, William, Rachel, Betsy, and John (who is our ancestor).

William married Mary Bristol, sister of Mrs. Ephriam Potter, who in time became Jane Ashley's mother-in-law. He, with a large family, moved to Ohio some time in the 1820's. Previously they had lived in or near Catskill, N. Y.

Rachel married John Edwards, and Betsy married William Robbins, both lived in New York state.

John, our ancestor, was born Dec. 28, 1777. He lived in Catskill, N. Y. He married Elizabeth Johnson, of a large family of Hartford, Connecticut. She was born May 27, 1773. She said her grandfather's mother brought to Connecticut the first small spinning wheel used there. The Johnsons (formerly Johnstones) were some of the first pilgrims who came from England. John and Elizabeth Ashley's children were Polly (our ancestor), John J. Phoebe, Betsy Ann, Harriet, Clarissa, George H., and Rebecca. John died at the home of his daughter Phoebe in New York state, October 15, 1843. Elizabeth died at the home of her son George near Ft. Wayne, Indiana, October 12, 1842.

Polly (our ancestor) was born Nov. 25, 1800. She married Riley Griswold who was born Feb. 22, 1802. He was from Green County, New York State. They had eleven children(see below). Polly died Dec. 25, 1879.

John J., born June 20, 1802, married Diana Potter. They had six children. After Diana's death, he married Casandra Perkins, They had two children.

Phoebe, born Sept. 1803, married Stephen Grizwold. They had thirteen children.

Betsy Ann, born July, 1805, married Edmond Bunnel of Syracuse, N. Y. They had seven children.

Clarissa, born Nov. 26, 1812, married James Cash, of N. Y. They had five children.

Harriet, born December 3, 1808, married Daniel Oplinger of Germany. They had three children.

George H., born June 1, 1814, married Esther Ann Lindsly of N. Y. They had four children.

Rebecca, born June 24, 1817, married AAron Bixby, who was born Sept. 20, 1800, and died Sept. 13, 1846. After his death she married Adam Jeffries, who was born July 12, 1822. They had five children.

John wanted his children near him, so he bought a large tract of land in Indiana near Ft. Wayne. He sold his property in New York state and moved his family there in May, 1837. Polly Ashley Grizwold was the first one of his children who followed him. All of his children except John J. finally went there.

JOHN ASHLEY (Came from England)
Wife

William
Rachel (married John Edwards)
Betsy (married William Robbins)
John (see below)

John Ashley, b. Dec. 28, 1777, d. Oct. 15, 1843
Elizabeth Johnson, b. May 27, 1773, d. Oct. 12, 1842
Polly (see below)
John J., m. Diana Potter and Casandra Perkins, 8 children
Phoebe, m. Stephen Grizwold, 13 children
Betsy Ann, m. Edmond Bunnel, 7 children
Harriet, m. Daniel Oplinger, 3 children
Clarissa, m. James Cash, 5 children
George H., m. Esther A. Lindsly, 4 children
Rebecca, m. AAron Bixby and Adam Jeffries, 5 children

Polly, b. Nov. 25, 1800; d. Dec. 25, 1879
Riley Griswold, b. Feb. 22, 1802
Harriett, m. Almon Reynolds
Nancy Julia (see Thomas line for descendents),
m. Michael Thomas
Ann Elizabeth, m. Granderson Petit
Richard A.
George W.
Joseph D.
Charles W.
Francis M.
Jane A., m. Joshua Potter (see below)

Jane A.,Griswold, b. Sept. 9, 1814
Joshua Potter, b. Feb. 19, 1814; d. April 20, 1889
Jane, m. Edward Kemp
Charles, m. Justine A. Osborn
Frank, m. Elizabeth Groat
Ellen, m. George Webb
Dwight, m. Ada Lewis
DeFay (see below)
Laura, m. Theron M. Latcher.

DeFay Potter
O. Jennie Thomas (see Thomas Family line)
Clyde DeFay, m. Elsie
Elva Jane, m. Foster
Edna Thomaselle, m. Crum
Vida Estelle, m. Speakman
Luther DeWitt – 3819 Bagley, Seattle, Wash.
Laura – died in infancy

Of Polly's children, a daughter, Elizabeth, died and a son Jeremiah, was drowned when only eight years old.

Harriet, born April 5, 1825, married Almon Reynolds and with a family of seven sons went to Washington state.

Nancy Julia, born March 28, 1828, married Michael Thomas. (see the Thomas family line for her decendents.)

Ann Elizabeth, born June 17, 1830, married Granderson Petit. They had two children.

was born. The baby was only a year old when Hiram died. Rachel was a young widow with two small children. Her address at this time was Leo, Indiana. In May, 1863, Rachel made application to the United States Government for a widow's pension, as the wife of a deceased soldier. She was no doubt having a difficult time feeding, clothing and housing herself and the children.

Nineteen and a half months after Hiram's death Rachel was married to William Beaty (October 6, 1822 - March 23, 1882) of DeKalb County, Indiana. He was thirteen years her senior. The wedding took place on September 11, 1864 at Rachel's home in Cedar Creek Township. The marriage ceremony was read by Jacob Gump, a minister of the gospel. (12)

William Beaty was a widower. He was almost 42 years old when Rachel married him. His first wife, Rebecca (January 15, 1819-March 10. 1861) and a son, John L. Beaty (died 1859. aged 11 days) are both buried near William and Rachel in Leo Cemetery.(13)

William Beaty was appointed guardian of his wife's children, Hannah and William Thomas, on February 25, 1865, according to National Archives records. Rachel and William Beaty were the parents of several children who are buried near them in Leo cemetery. The children were: James P. Beaty.(1865-1925); Josophean Beaty, who died December 14, 1871 aged one year, one month and 11 days; Amos Beaty (1873-1942); and Samuel J. Beaty who died March 1, 1875 (or 1876). According to Mrs. Forest Beaty, the widow of a son of James Beaty, James and Amos were the only children of Rachel and William, so there were probably no others that grew to adulthood.

Richard Newcomer---one of the many people who have given us information for this book---found William Beatty and Rachel in the 1880 federal census for Jackson Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. Listed were William (aged 55); Rachel (aged 43); James (aged 15); Amos (aged 6); and Eldora B. (aged 1 year). We did not find a stone for Eldora in Leo cemetery. Also living in their household was a man named Doriel Thomas (aged 52), a laborer, who was probably the hired man. It is probably only coincidence that the hired man was named Thomas as we have no record of any Doriel Thomas in our family.

James Beaty married a woman named Ida Zeller. Their children were: Charles, Olive, Floyd, Joy, Gladys, Mary, Forrest, Virgil, Raymond and Ethel.

Rachel and Hiram's little girl, Hannah Elizabeth. died on August 5, 1868. She was about eleven and a half years old. We do not know what caused her death. She is buried in Leo Cemetery and has a stone. It was still very readable when Loyce and Birdie visited the cemetery in July. 1961. However, the stone was propped up against the stone of Rebecca Beaty.

Rachel died on December 12, 1899, aged 63 years, 10 months and 1 day. She and William Beaty share the same tombstone. Rachel's grave is next to the fence on the extreme north end of the Leo Cemetery amongst the graves of the other Thomases and Beatys.

The sad death of Hannah E. Thomas while still a little girl, left William Hugh Thomas the only living child of Hiram. The family called him "Will Hugh". This nickname was spoken as if it were one word, "Willhugh". (14)

Willhugh was just a little over six months old when Hiram enlisted to serve the Union cause. He was just over one year old when Hiram died, so he never really knew his father. He was two years, seven months and 19 days old when his mother married William Beaty. He was six and a half years old when his only full sister, Hannah, died. More than likely these events in his early life affected his character in the years to come.

We assume that he grew up in the home of his stepfather in Jackson Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. He would have been about five years older than his half-brother, James Beaty, and twelve to thirteen years older than Amos.

William Hugh Thomas was married to Cora Delta Stafford on March 2, 1884 at the home of her parents near Auburn, Jackson Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. (15) He was 22 years old and very handsome. Cora was the daughter of John and Catherine Morr Stafford. She was born in Indiana. The Stafford family appears in the 1880 federal census in Jackson Township, DeKalb County (Page 10, Line 10). John Stafford was born in Indiana and his wife was born in Ohio. (16) The children listed were: Cora Delta (aged 14); James M. (aged 12); Mary M. (aged 7); and Effie (aged 1). (There was one other child, Bertha, listed in the 1900 federal census who was born in December, 1881.) According to family tradition the Stafford family originated in Staffordshire, England. (17)

Now Willhugh was not only handsome, he was also something of a "dandy", who loved fast horses and fancy rigs, which he raced against the other young men up and down the country roads. Cora's parents did not approve of him and tried to discourage her from marrying him. But Cora would not be denied her handsome young man and marry him she did. (18)

Willhugh and Cora were the parents of eight children. Unfortunately, all were dead by the time we finally located sources that could help us identify them. Our information about them is meager. They were: John Hiram, William Edward, Alta, Charles Austin, Delta, Edward William, Forest, and Howard. (19)

Willhugh's paternal grandfather, Hugh Thomas died in 1896. Willhugh was one of his heirs. At that time he lived at Auburn,

Indiana and was 36 years old. The family also lived in Wisconsin for a time.

We have been told that Willhugh and Cora were eventually divorced, but we do not know where or when. Mrs. Kathryn Method of New Paris, Indiana told us,"....Cora D. Stafford...was my aunt. My mother's oldest sister. The picture you sent I recognize as her, but really I cannot remember him. I was very young when he came to visit in our home, but even at that time they were divorced."

The family moved to Chicago at some time or other. Cora was living at 224 N. Karlov Avenue (in, we believe, Maywood) at the time she purchased a lot in Glen Oak Cemetery at the corner of Roosevelt and Manheim Roads, Hillside, Illinois. She purchased this lot through the Chicago Church of the Brethern, so she may have been a member of that denomination. Willhugh and Cora are buried side by side on this lot (No. 454, Maple Section). Willhugh lies in Grave No. 5. He died on May 14, 1919. He apparently did not die in Illinois---there is no record of his death in the Office of Vital Records, Illinois Dept. of Public Health.

Cora lies in Grave No. 6. She died on February 10, 1936. Also buried on this lot in addition to their son, Howard, and their daughter, Alta, is a grandson, Harold Spillane who was born in 1910 and died on April 13, 1931. He lies in Grave No. 4. Willhugh, Cora, Harold and Alta have stones. Howard does not. (20)

Howard Thomas and Birdella Kelley each had identical pictures of Willhugh, Cora and the two oldest sons, John and William. The pictures are of a handsome young man in his early twenties of probably medium height, whose wavy or curly hair was dark. His nose was straight and thin; his eyes are dark. He wore a mustache but was otherwise clean-shaven.

Cora was a young woman of pleasant and (to us) rather pretty features, whose dark straight hair was parted in the middle and pulled to the back in a bun. She probably had blue or grey eyes.

The two little boys were very young. They appear to be no more than one and three years of age. They are dressed in matching striped dresses with white collars, in the mode of that day.(21)

FOOTNOTES

1. In researching the life of Hiram, we had made available to us by the National Archives, ten pieces of literature, most of which had to do with his widow's application for a pension for her children. Many of the dates and other facts we give you come from these papers.

2. The grave of Andrew Hollopeter lies among the graves of

many other Hollopeters in the Leo Cemetery. His gravestone reads:

Rev. Andrew Hollopeter - died Dec. 18. 1892
aged 84 y 5 m 26 das

There are other Hollopeters buried in Fountain Cemetery in Fostoria, Ohio, so probably the Thomas and Hollopeter families had known each other for many years.

3. For a long time it was a connundrum to us how Hannah Thomas, the baby's grandmother, could be living in Iowa and still attend Rachel at the birth of Hannah Elizabeth in Indiana. It was not until we learned from the 1860 federal census that Hannah Elizabeth was born in Iowa, was the puzzle solved.

4. Federal Census of 1860, Allen County, Indiana, Page 122, Lines 29, 30, and 31.

5. His tombstone says that he was born in 1861. This is the date in the National Archives papers.

6. See HISTORY OF 88th INDIANA VOLUNTEERS INFANTRY, ENGAGEMENTS, CHRONOLOGY, ROSTER 1862-1865. Fort Wayne, 1895

7. For a better explanation of the Battles of Perryville and Stones River as well as an overview of the entire war in the West in the late summer and fall of 1862, see THE AMERICAN HERITAGE PICTURE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR, American Heritage Publishing Co., 1960.

8. Information copied from the muster roll of his company for March & April, 1863 says he died at Nashville, Tennessee on January 29, 1863, cause of death not stated. His widow's declaration for army pension states, "who while in the service aforesaid and in the line of his duty died of disease contracted in the service". THE HISTORY OF ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA, Chicago, Kingman Bros. 1880, page 76, says, "Private Hiram W. Thomas, Company C, 88th Regiment, Infantry, died at Nashville, Tennessee, Jan. 28, 1863 of wounds". In a letter to Jonathan H. Wagner, written March 31, 1950, Albert D. Thomas says his Uncle Hiram "was wounded at the Battle of Bull Run & died of gangreen". Albert Buchholz' copybook shows he died January 29, 1863. Both family Bibles state he died in Tennessee, January 29. 1863 aged 31 years, 4 months and 14 days.

9. It would have been comparatively easy for the Thomases and/or their friends to have returned Hiram's body to Leo by rail. The country at that time was criss-crossed by hundreds of small rail companies. This network of railroads was one of the factors that enabled the Union to move men about the country rather rapidly, along with

their necessary supplies, food, horses, weapons and other goods of war.

As for returning Hiram's body, someone would have had to drive a team and wagon from Leo down to Peru, Indiana. After leaving the team in a livery stable, the person or persons would then have boarded the Indianapolis, Peru and Chicago Railroad to Indianapolis. In that town they would have boarded the Indianapolis and Madison Railroad train and ridden it to Columbus, Indiana. They could then have taken the Jeffersonville Railroad train to Louisville, Kentucky, where they could have caught the Louisville and Nashville Railway train to Nashville, Tennessee. Once the body of Hiram was exhumed and put on board the Louisville and Nashville Railroad train, they could then have returned to Peru by the same route they went down to Nashville.

10. Private George Carney of Company M, 1st Michigan Infantry lies in Grave No. 3068, which was the grave that originally held the body of Hiram W. Thomas. George Carney died on November 30. 1863, which means that Hiram had to be disinterred before that date. In August, 1975, we received a letter from the Veterans Administration answering a request that a search be made of records available to the Veterans Administration. We wished to determine if Hiram W. Thomas, or his first cousin, Cyrus M. Thomas, were either ONE buried in ANY national cemetery. The letter said,

> "We have searched the interment records maintained in this office for decedents interred in national cemeteries and certain Confederate plots and soldiers' lots which are under the jurisdiction of the Veterans Administration. These records fail to show by name that Cyrus M. and Hiram W. Thomas are interred in any of these burial locations. Records available to the Historical Library of the Cemetery Service contain various volumes of the Roll of Honor compiled by the Office of the Quartermaster General during the period 1865-1871. Volume XXII of the Roll of Honor, under the caption, "Names of Union Soldiers Who Died or Were Killed at Nashville, Tennessee, and Different Points In the Vicinity, Who Have Either Been Interred As Unknown in the Nashville, Tennessee National Cemetery, or Removed to Their Homes by Their Friends" lists the name of one Private Hiram W. Thomas, Company C, 88th Indiana Infantry, and shows his date of death as January 29, 1863".

11. There is an Elizabeth Lingafelt buried in Leo Cemetery in the second row east of State Road No. 1 in the old part of the cemetery. She died July 26, 1882 aged 84 years, 4 mon-

ths which would indicate that she was born in March, 1798.

We also found that on two different occasions William Lingafelt acted as a witness for Rachel Thomas when she was applying for a government pension for her two children.

12. Information from the National Archives file on Hiram Thomas.

13. We know of one other child of William and Rebecca Beatty, namely Susan, who married Daniel Wyatt on Dec. 12, 1896. Susan was born Feb. 14, 1849 in DeKalb County, Indiana. Susan and Daniel were the parents of four children: Charles W., Blanch Pearl, Ida Alice and William Oscar. Ida and William died in infancy.

14. This information from Birdella Kelley.

15. Howard found this information in the Fort Wayne, Indiana Public Library. It was in a book on marriages in DeKalb County, Indiana, Pages 14 and 193.

16. The following sketch on John Stafford was given to us by Mr. Richard Newcomer, RR #1, Box 129, Auburn, Indiana, 46700. It came from a newspaper clipping which he found in his brother-in-law's attic.

"John Stafford, son of James and Anna Stafford, was born in DeKalb County, Indiana, April 23, 1844, and departed this life January 6, 1908 aged 63 years, 8 months and 13 days. He was united in marriage to Catherine Morr, October 6, 1864. He leaves to mourn his departure, a wife, one son, and four daughters, fourteen grandchildren, three brothers and four sisters. All the children are married except one.

He resided on a farm in DeKalb County about a mile from where he was born till 1891 when he moved to Kosciusko County, Indiana. He remained two years when he returned to the farm and resided there until he moved to Goshen two years ago. The deceased with his wife united with the German Baptist church in 1872. He served in the ministry 29 years. He was ordained to the eldership in 1895, and during his eldership he served the Little St. Joe, Blue River, Cedar Creek and West Goshen churches. He was of a kindly spirit and loved the humble ways of Christianity. He was a good husband and a tender father, having a great concern for his family and did all he could to lead them to their Savior. He was a good neighbor and it can be said of him that he was one of God's noblemen. His funeral was held at the West Goshen church on Thursday at 10:30. Funeral conducted by Rev. Hilary of West Goshen. (A secon clipping in Mr. Newcomer's possession lists one son

living in Goshen, Indiana; two daughters in Goshen; Mrs. Charles Bartles (living) near the home in Jackson Township and MRS. WILL THOMAS living in Fort Wayne.)

17. Information from Carol Thomas Poltersdorf, 825 Sheldon Avenue, Aurora, Illinois.

18. This bit of gossip came to us from Willhugh and Cora's daughter-in-law, Lora A. Thomas. Lora told us that Cora was "short and rather dumpy".

19. JOHN HIRAM was born on January 22, 1885 at Auburn, Indiana.* He was married to Ethel Minna Schlierve on March 31, 1923 at Watertown, Wisconsin. He died on September 25, 1952 at a small nursing home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, after a stay of less than 24 hours. He is buried in Highland Memorial Park, 14875 West Greenfield Avenue, New Berlin, Wisconsin, Lot 3, Section 8, Grave 1. (Information from Ethel Schlierve Thomas.)

WILLIAM EDWARD was married to a woman name Katherine. We have no other information.

ALTA (Alda A. on her stone) was born in 1891 according to her stone. She was married to a man named Brown, which is the name on her stone. She is buried in Glen Oak Cemetery on her mother's lot, Grave 3. The records of the sexton are not clear as to whether she died on June 8, 1968 or was interred on that date.

CHARLES AUSTIN was born on February 10, 1888 (his stone has 1889). He was married to Julia Louise Schlicher on September 23, 1923 (another source gives September 28, 1924) in Chicago, Illinois. He died on December 11, 1946 at the home of his sister Delta Price in Chicago of lung cancer. He is buried in Mt. Emblem Cemetery, Grand Avenue and County Line Road, Elmhurst, Illinois near his wife (who remarried after his death to a man named Anderson), Section F, Lot 401, Grave 1. Charles and Julia had at least one child, an adopted daughter, Elizabeth J. Thomas Dowling from whom we got this information.

DELTA married a man named Ed Price. She had at least two daughters, Marion and Vivian.

EDWARD WILLIAM was born on July 14, 1898 at Auburn, Indiana. He was a medical doctor and practiced in Aurora, Illinois. He was married to Lora Ann Stankey on July 3, 1924. Lora was born October 8, 1896. Edward died on December 25, 1967 at Aurora, Illinois. Edward and Lora were the parents of at least two children: Stafford Thomas and Carol Thomas White Poltersdorf from whom we got this information.

*His widow told us he was born at Aurora, Indiana, which is in the southern part of Indiana on the Kentucky border.

FOREST- we have no information on him.

HOWARD G. was married three times. Two of his wives were Adele and Marie. He is buried in Glen Oak Cemetery on his mother's lot, Grave 2. The sexton's records are not clear as to whether he died on August 7, 1944 or was interred on that date.

20. Oak Ridge-Glen Oak Cemeteries are side by side. In attempting to locate these graves be sure that you are in GLEN OAK cemetery. Willhugh and Cora's graves are part way back, next to the road, between Maple and Moose sections.

21. When we began our research on the Thomases, the only thing that we knew about William Hugh Thomas was that he was a cousin of Birdie's mother, Amanda Jane Thomas Buchholz. That was the reason that Birdie happened to have a picture of him, his wife and children. He and Cora were among the most difficult subjects we have had to trace.

WILLIAM HUGH ("Willhugh") THOMAS, his wife, Cora Delta Stafford and (probably) their sons, John Hiram and William Edward

6.2.1.

Peru, Indiana May 23, 1978

Mrs Leyce Dryden - Rte 2- Sycamore Ill 60178
Mr Richard Newcomer - Rte 1 Box 129 Auburn, In 46706
Mrs Ethel Thomas - 3334 W Highland Blvd, Apt 1007 - Milwaukee, Wis 53208
Mrs L R Dowling - 67555 Vigo Drive, La Mesa, Calif 92041

After you have all read the attached letter from Gracia Alwood, Sexton, Oak Ridge Glen Oak Cemetery, Roosevelt Road and Oakridge Avenue, Hillside, Ill 60162, I think you will agree with me that we can close out this search.

As to their death ages bear in mind William H was born Jan 23, 1862 and died May 14, 1919 which would make him 57 plus

Cora A or D born 1865 died Feb 10, ~~1936~~ 1936 which would make her around ~~66~~ 71.

Thank you for all your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Howard Thomas

Howard Thomas
55 McKinstry
Peru, In
46970

Needs family info

To the Editor:

I would like to ask of your readers if there are any persons who might have the answer to the following Thomas family history problem.

William Hugh Thomas, born Jan. 23, 1862, son of Hiram and Racheal Thomas. Cora D. Stafford, born 1866, the daughter of John and Catherine Stafford. They were united in marriage March 2, 1884, DeKalb County, marriage license page 14 and 193 at the home of the bride in Jackson Twp., DeKalb County. In his grandfather's will of 1896 he and his wife were listed as living in Auburn, Indiana.

From then on there is no further record of this party. I have information to the fact he did not pass away in DeKalb County.

If there is anyone who can help me with this, please contact Mrs. Howard Tibbals, 904 Van Buren N.E., Auburn, IN 46706 or write to the undersigned.

Howard Thomas
55 McKinstry
Peru, IN 46970

925-2883

Letter policy

Letters to the Editor should be:

1. Signed by the author
2. Based on issues and not personal attacks on individuals
3. Written as concisely as the subject permits

71

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Thursday
January 08, 2004

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Thursday, January 08, 2004

Ruth Tibbals

AUBURN — Ruth T. Tibbals, 95, died Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004.

Mrs. Tibbals worked at Messenger Corp. in Auburn for 34 years. She was a member of the Auburn American Legion Auxiliary and the Ladies of the Moose. She graduated from Auburn High School Class with the class of 1926.

She was born Aug. 19, 1908, in Waterloo to Jonathan P. and Grace A. (Goodwin) Thomas.

She married Howard B. Tibbals on Jan. 19, 1944, in Greenwood, Miss. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are a nephew and his wife, Howard and Patricia Thomas of Auburn.

She also was preceded in death by a brother, Wayne Thomas, on Jan. 9, 1996.

Private graveside services will take place at a later date.

Calling is Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Animal Shelter, 5221 U.S. 6, Waterloo, IN 46793, and New Hope Christian Center.

Condolences may be sent to sympathy@fellerfuneralhome.net.

Article Comment Form

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Mr Richard Newcomer - Rte 1 - Box 129 Auburn, In 46706
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Mrs Leyce Dryden - Rte 2 - Sycamore, Ill 60178
Mrs L R Dowling - 6755 Vigo Drive, La Mesa, Calif 92041

The following received 4-10-1978 from Glen Oak Cemetery covering Lot 454 Maple Section

Cora A Thomas - 224 No Karlov Ave.

(Chicago Church of Brethern)

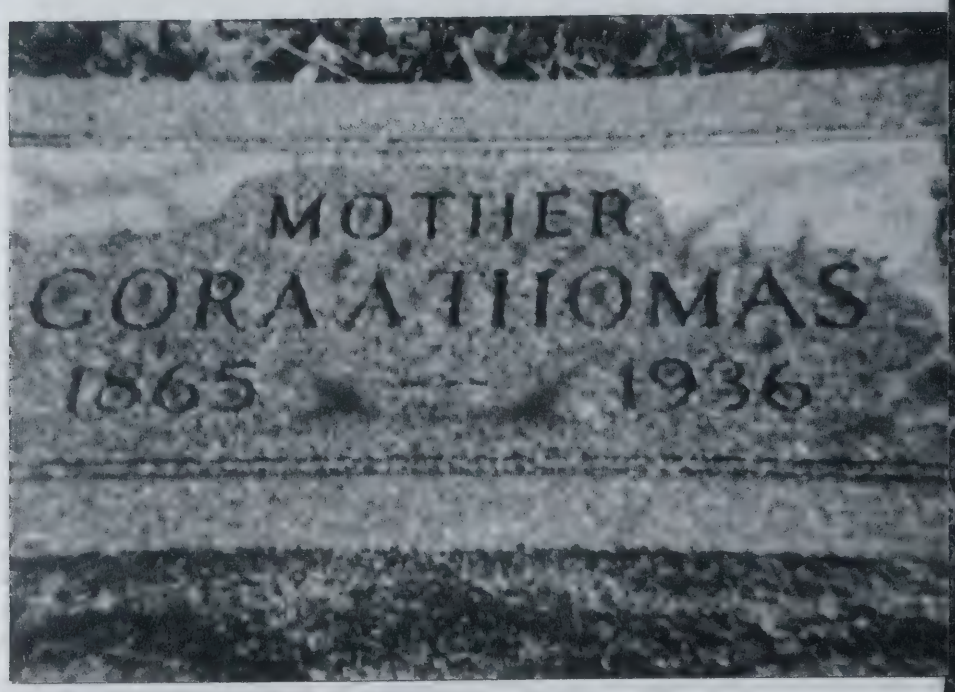
Lot 454 Maple 6

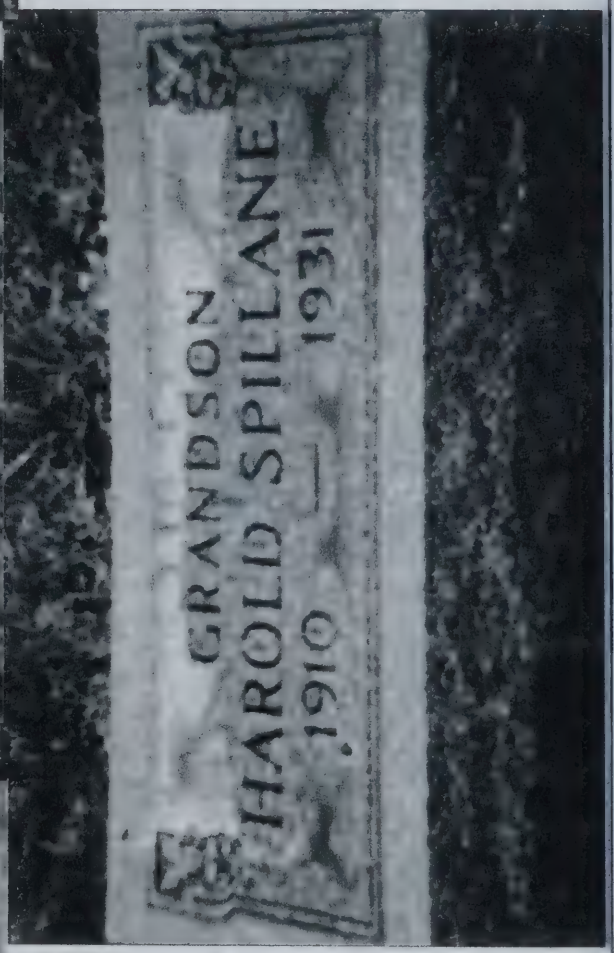
Five	5-14-19	W H Thomas	Chas Thomas Grandmother	6-0		
Four	4-13-31-1	Harold Gillams	Cora A Thomas	6-3x		
Six	2-10-36	Cora A Thomas	S E Cleveland Mother	6-3x	Box	
Two	8-7-44	Howard S Thomas	Cora A Thomas Della Price	8-7-44	8'2	Bass
Three	6-8-68	Alice A Brown (76)	Sister	9127	20	spec White

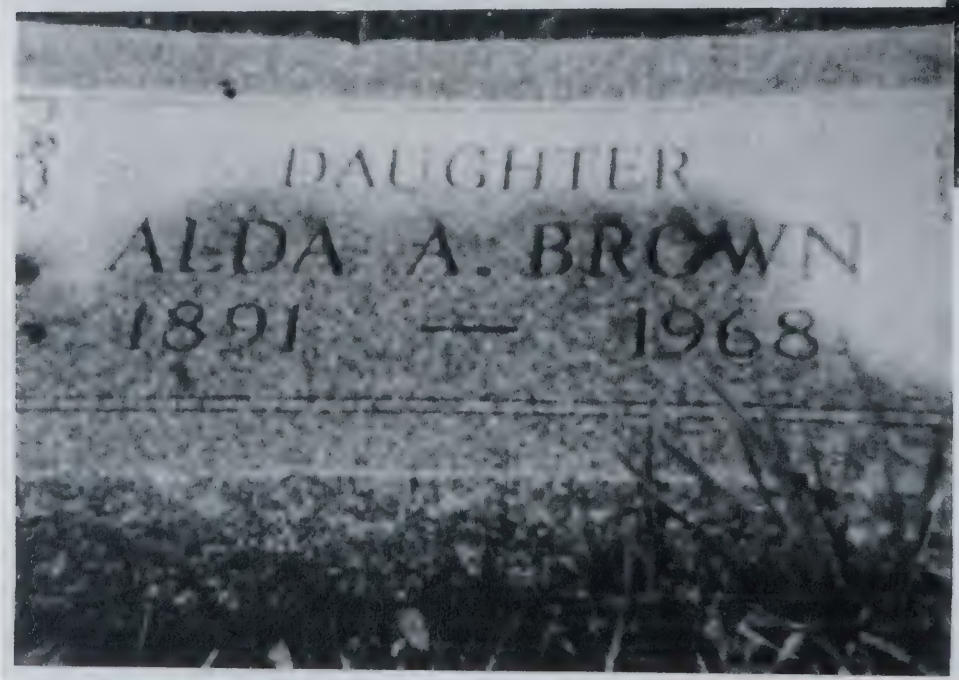
After checking the list of children of W H and Cora D you will find the above are all their children. Would be glad to have your comments on thi .

Howard Thomas

FATHER
WILLIAM H. THOMAS
1861 — 1919


MOTHER
CORA A. THOMAS
1865 — 1936


GRANDSON
HAROLD SPILLANE
1931
1910


DAUGHTER
ALDA A. BROWN
1891 — 1968

Richard A., born Dec. 17, 1831 had one son, Charles, who died when twenty-one.

George W., born Aug. 18, 1833, was drowned at Ft. Wayne, Indiana while attending college there.

Joseph D., born Aug. 26, 1835, had five sons and three daughters.

Charles W., born Aug. 6, 1837, died in the south during the Civil War.

Francis M., born Sept. 30, 1839, died a young man at home.

Jane A., her oldest daughter (and the person who dictated this information) was born in Breen County, N. Y., Sept. 9, 1814. She married Joshua Potter. He was born in Schoharie County, N. Y., Feb. 19, 1814. This couple taught school in Arkansas one year, then joined the Choctaw mission, under the patronage of the American Board of Foreign Missions in Indian Territory. They were there for five years, then on account of slavery among the Indians were transferred to Minnesota. They were there nearly two years and were again transferred to the Seneca Mission in New York state. After ten years in the mission field, they moved to Michigan. They had eight children, four of whom were born in Indian territory.

DeFay Potter, born in Cattoragus County, New York, Sept. 13, 1861, married O. Jennie Thomas. They had six children, Clyde, DeFay, Elva Jane, Edna Thomasella, Vida Estelle, Luther DeWitt, and Laura. (See Thomas line for more on this family).

94

The Livengood Family

ABRAM LIVENGOOD, b. Jan. 14, 1806; d. July 7, 1879;
m. April 27, 1826 to
Katherine Noffisinger, b. 1803; d. Nov. 21, 1841.
- Isaac, b. Jan. 17, 1827; d. Mar. 1, 1901.
- Christopher, b. Sept. 29, 1828; d. July 1901.
- Ira, b. Nov. 7, 1830; d. July 4, 1904
- Ann, b. Dec. 28, 1832; d. Jan. 11, 1916.
  (Ann lived in the home with Abram and his second wife, Mary).
- Joseph, b. Dec. 14, 1834; d. 1915;
  The father of Clem, Eva, and May Livengood.
  Clem married Pearl Feely, they had one son, Robert, who married Frances Neville and adopted twins, Jon and
  May married Fred Rife, they had six children: Fred, Mary, Margaret, Doris, Tillie and John.
- John, b. Jan. 16, 1835; d. July 4, 1904.
- Samuel, b. May 18, 1840; d. Nov. 12, 1840

Mary Whittig – second marriage – b. Oct. 7, 1826
(Mary was Swiss); d. Mar. 30, 1913.
- Katherine, b. Aug. 6, 1844; d. Dec. 3, 1864.
- Charles E. (Ed), b. Sept. 26, 1846; d. Feb. 15, 1923;
  Unmarried.
- William F., b. June 28, 1848; (see below)
- Ellen, b. Mar. 6, 1850 (see below)
- Rebecca E., b. Sept. 26, 1846; d. Feb. 15, 1923.
  Unmarried
- Alma Jane, b. Feb. 6, 1853; d. Mar. 28, 1927;
  (see Thomas family line for her descendents)
- Fredrick P., b. April 7, 1856; d. Dec. 2, 1940.
  (see below)
- Albert (Bub), b. Oct. 17, 1854; d. June 21, 1926
  (see below)
- Arthur F. died when young
- Martha A., b. Mar. 13, 1859; d. Dec. 29, 1940 (see below)
- Annice V. died when young.
- Mary Edith, b. Feb. 25, 1857; d. Aug. 14, 1941.
  (see below)

William F. was the father of The Reverend Dr. Melvin Livengood of the United Brethern Church, who after retirement lived in Warsaw, Indiana, where he suffered a heart attack and died on Feb. 25, 1965.

Ellen married a United Brethern minister who became a bishop, Bishop Castle. They had one son, Ernest.

Frederick P. had three children, Chester, Ethel, and another daughter.

Albert (Bub) had two daughters, Ruth and Ina. Ruth, Mrs. Audie Deal, was killed in an auto accident in 1960. Mrs. Ina Ivins lives outside Elkhart, Indiana.

Martha A. married Edgar Pontius, a United Brethern minister. They had four children, Lowell, Howard, Edith, Helen, who died young. This family lives in Concordia, Kansas.

Edith married Leonard Whittig, who died Sept. 9, 1930. Uncle Len lived with Grandmother Livengood and took care of the farm. The old Livengood home was in Elkhart, Indiana.

The old Livengood home in Elkhart is still standing and is used as a staff building for a hospital.

The Thomas Record

LEVERTON THOMAS, b. 1739; d. Feb. 25, 1814
Mary, b. 1745; d. March 19, 1820

Edmund
Rebecca (Lockwood)
Mary (Colwell)
Jonathan
William
Ann
Lydia
Joseph
Leverton, Jr.
Michael (see below)

Leverton and Mary Thomas are buried in Pigeon Creek Cemetary at Eighty Four, Pennsylvania. Leverton may have been the maiden name of Leverton Thomas' mother. Leverton is an English name and there is a Leverton and Sons, Ltd. in London, England, who have been undertakers since King George III in the 1700's.

It can be fairly well established that Leverton Thomas came from Wales. The Reverend Fletcher Thomas (see below) wrote in his book, *The Life and Labors of Reverend Fletcher Thomas*, "Concerning my great grand parents, but little knowledge has been transmitted to me save that my paternal great grandfather was born in Wales and came to this country in an early day." In a letter from Susie Thomas Hartman to Birdella Buchholz Kelley is the following: "I meant to tell you it was Grandpa Charles N. Thomas folks that came over here from Wales. I have a pair of ice skates that are way past 200 years old that came over with the old folks when they came to this country... Grandpa Thomas had these skates and they either belonged to his father or his grandfather."

Leverton Thomas served as a private in Capt. John Munn's Company, 2nd Battalion, Washington County Militia according to the Pennsylvania Archives 6th Series, Vol. 2, pp. 30, 60, 83. Dorothy Paff (see below) relates that her mother, Evelyn Thomas, (see below) had a bullet mold that had been used by her great-grandmother Thomas to make bullets for the soldiers during the Revolutionary War. According to this family story, the women were stationed behind the lines to make the bullets.

Leverton Thomas owned what he referred to in his will as a "plantation" which was called Timber Ridge. It consisted of 283 acres of land, and was located in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. (The name of this county was later changed to Washington County.)

The above mentioned will is registered in Will Book No. 2, pages 471-73 on file with the Register of Wills at Washington, Pa. Leverton evidently could not write since he signed his will by making his "mark" on it. He evidently was well-to-do for his time since in his will he describes his property as consisting of "a house, barn, sheep house, cattle shed and fruit (trees). Also hay and small grain; bed and bedding; horse, saddle and bridle valued at $80.67; kitchen furniture worth $26; milk cows, ewes, breeding sow, sheep and lambs and cattle." He also admonishes the executors of his will to never let his wife, even if she "should Change her Life and Marrie and by any MisConduct or bad fortune Come to want then and in that Case it is my will and I do order that there be Sufficient Support given her out of my Plantation During her Life..." The will was probated on March 14, 1814, with Edmund Thomas as one of the executors. Mary Thomas also left a will which was dated Feb. 20, 1816. Register of Wills, Book No. 3, pages 380 and 381, Washington County, Pa.

77

MICHAEL THOMAS, born Jan. 5, 1775, d. July 25, 1862
Agnes

Liverton, m. Anna Wade, 1815 (see below)
Jonathan, b. Feb. 25, 1807 (see below)
Hugh, b. 1899 (see below)
Martha, b. Sept. 25, 1812 (see below)
Michael, b. May 8, 1814 (see below)
Mary (see below)

Michael may have married first a woman named Elizabeth since this is the name given to his wife in Mrs. Burt's DAR papers. He was probably born on his father's farm, (see above), and grew to manhood on this farm. We know that he was married before 1800 since he had set up his own household by the time the federal census was taken in 1800. His family consisted of his wife and two males under age 10.

According to *The History of Wayne County, Ohio, ...*, "The first settlement made within its present limits was in 1811 by Michael Thomas with his wife and seven children. He emigrated from Washington County, Pa., and settled upon the southwest quarter of section 33..." We have been able to identify only four of these seven children by name.

Liverton is mentioned in *The History of Wayne County*, "The first marriage was that of Liverton Thomas to Anna Wade by 'Priest' Jones in 1815."

Jonathan, the father of Fletcher (see above), was married to Elizabeth Bacome and they were the parents of 10 children. Enoch and Elizabeth (twins), Salathiel Mark, John Wesley, Fletcher, Clemenza, Angeline, Jonathan, William Henry and Henrietta. Jonathan was a minister in the United Brethern church for about 60 years. Ethel Thomas, (see below), who has gathered much of the information about the Thomas family, states that Bishop N. Castle (see Livengood family at end of book) wrote the following in his introduction to the book mentioned above written by Fletcher Thomas: "Jonathan Thomas... was one of the most distinguished pioneer preachers of Ohio, Indiana, and Southern Michigan. The writer remembers him at the early camp-meetings of over sixty years ago, in the very beginning of things in Northern Indiana. He was a marked figure in his day. He was rather a short, square-built man, with muscles of knotted and braided steel, and a face that told of the invincible, though radiant with expressions of good

will, and brotherly kindness. As a preacher he was far above the average for his early time. His voice was one of his chief endowments. It was an orotund, with great carriage and penetration, and it seemed to answer the purpose of his will without an apparent effort. Although of such great compass and power, it never grated harshly on the ear of the hearer." Fletcher Thomas was also a United Brethern minister and he had three children, Enos, Boyd, and Annis.

Hugh is mentioned in *The History of Butler and Bremer Counties, Iowa*, "He was born in Washington, County, Pa. in 1809. When three years of age he removed to Wayne County, Ohio, with his parents. His parents, Michael and Agnes Thomas, lived in Wayne County about nineteen years, when they removed to Hancock county, where his mother died. His father died in Indiana." It is from this record that we have assumed that Michael's second wife was named Agnes. Hugh was married three times. His first wife was Hannah Williams, whom he married in 1830 and who died in 1866. His second wife was Harriet Frances Crawford, whom he married in 1868 and who died in 1870. Hugh then married Mary Sachett Arkills, who died in 1912. Hugh died near Clarksville, Iowa in 1896. He had nine children, Hiram W., Asenath Samantha, Charles Nelson, Liverton Dixon, Samantha Sarah, Amanda Ann, Albert Hugh, Hannah Matilda, and Harriet R. Amanda Ann was the mother of Birdella Buchholz Kelley whose daughter is Loyce Dryden, to whom we are indebted for the assembling of much of the information about the early Thomas family. Liverton was the father of James Leslie whose son is Howard Thomas, to whom we are also deeply indebted.

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Michael also had a daughter named Mary who was mentioned in her grandmother's will (see above). "I give and bequeath unto nine of my granddaughters and my son William all and singerly my estate equally to be divided among them Viz. William Thomas, Mary Lockwood, Mary Thomas daughter of Edmon, Mary Thomas daughter of Michael, etc..."

Martha is mentioned in *The History of Wayne County*, "Martha, daughter of Michael Thomas, was born Sept. 25, 1812."

Ethel Thomas (see below) remembers a conversation with her father in which he mentioned two other daughters of Michael, Lisbian Bedine (or Bodine) and Sarah, whose husband was named Pete Surfus. This is all we have been able to find on the other members of Michael and Agnes' family.

In *The History of Hancock, Ohio* is found the following: "Michael Thomas and wife, and sons, Liverton, Michael, Hugh, and Jonathan, came here from Wayne County, Ohio, in the spring of 1832. The parents settled on the northwest quarter of Section 3, and Liverton, who was then married, on the southwest quarter of Section 2. The latter was elected justice of the peace at an election held in Washington July 21, 1832. Michael, Sr., and wife died on their farm, Liverton and wife in Fostoria, and Michael, Jr., Hugh and Jonathan removed to Indiana." This record is mistaken when it says that Michael died there because we have proof that he died and was buried in Indiana.

Hugh and Michael, Jr. moved to Alben county, Indiana, between 1846 and 1849 and it is possible that Michael, Sr. moved with them. According to the Cedar Creek Township, Allen County, Indiana, federal census of 1860, he was living in the household of Michael Thomas, Jr., where his occupation is given as that of farmer.

Michael Thomas, Sr. is buried in the Netherline Cemetery, Cedar Creek Twp., Allen county, Indiana. This information was obtained by Howard Thomas from a book entitled "*Burials in Allen County except Ft. Wayne.*" This was compiled by the ladies of the local DAR in the early 1920's taken off tombstones which were readable.

Michael Thomas Senior July 25, 1862
Age 87 years, 6 mo. and 20 days
Ellen Thomas, wife of Michael Thomas
Feb. 22, 1857 Age 66 yrs. and 19 days

Since the wife buried beside Michael, Sr. was named Ellen, it can be assumed that he married a third time sometime between 1846 and 1857. Ellen would have been born Feb. 3, 1781.

THE REVEREND MICHAEL THOMAS, b. May 8, 1814;
d. April 7, 1880
Charlotte Shippey

David (see below)
William (see below)
James (see below)

Drusilla Shippey – second marriage – b. Sept. 3, 1846;
d. March 12, 1849

Luemma (married a man named Henderson and lived in Michigan)

Nancy Julia Griswold – third marriage – b. March 28, 1838;
m. March or April, 1850; d. Feb. 6, 1912.
(see also Ashley-Griswold record)

Michael Corwin (see below)
O. Jennie (see below)
Fremont Jonathan (see below)
Estella Elizabeth (see below)
Emma Victoria (see below)
Lottie (see below)
Clarence Riley (see below)
Evelyn May (see below)

The Reverend Michael Thomas was born in Wayne County, Ohio. He was converted in his eighteenth year and joined the Methodist Episcopal church. He went with his parents to Hancock county, Ohio, where he lived until the year 1848, when he removed to Allen county, Indiana. About the year 1854 he joined the United Brethern church, and after several years as quarterly conference preacher, he was received into the North Ohio conference at Waterloo, Indiana, in the autumn of 1870. He was ordained at Hicksville, Ohio, Sept. 10, 1874. While living at Cedarville, Indiana, he was thrown from a wagon as a result of a run-away team of horses. The bruises from the fall caused his death. He died under surgical and medical treatment in the hospital at Fort Wayne, Indiana. (Most of the above information is taken from the Religious Telescope of May 12, 1880.)

Although we do not have the birth and death dates of Charlotte, the Reverend Michael's first wife, it is fairly safe to assume that she died while they were living in Hancock, Ohio, since he married Drusilla Shippey on Sept. 3, 1846, and they moved to Allen County in 1848. Perhaps Charlotte died in childbirth when James was born in 1845. Furthermore, since Drusilla died on March 12, 1849, (date determined by the dates on her tombstone) and since Nancy Julia Griswold was listed as his wife on the 1850 census, it is fairly safe to assume that Michael and Julia were married between March 12, 1849 and April 1850. At this time the Reverend Michael had four children, three by his first wife and one by his second.

The Reverend Michael Thomas is buried by his second wife, Drusilla, in the Leo Cemetery, Allen county, Indiana. This information was also taken from *"Burials in Allen County except Ft. Wayne"*. Ethel Thomas, his granddaughter says she visited these graves when on visit to cousins in Indiana in 1960. The inscriptions read:

Drusilla Thomas wife of Michael Thomas Jr.
March 17, 1847 Age 33 years 5 mo. and 10 days

Rev. Michael Thomas April 7, 1880
Age 65 years 10 mo. and 10 days.

Although Drusilla is given as the wife of Michael Thomas Jr. and Rev. Michael Thomas has no Jr. attached, this does not seem to be strange since at the time of Drusilla's death, Michael's father, also named Michael was still alive. However, by the time the Reverend Michael died in 1880, his father was long since dead and there was no need to distinguish between the two.

DAVID THOMAS, b. Mar. 1839; d. Mar. 24, 1915
Anna Beachgood, m. at Wabash, Ind.; buried Gracelawn cemetery, Elkhart, Indiana.

Miriam, died when three
Paula, b. 1878; m. Mr. Steele, 1944; buried in California
Frost, b. 1883; d. 1947, buried in Gracelawn cemetery, Elkhart, Indiana.

David fought in the Civil War. Although he is not listed in the 1850 census, he is listed in the 1860 census as living with his father and his father's third wife. After the war he attended college in Greencastle, Indiana, where he was graduated from DePauw University. For a number of years he was superintendent of schools in Wabash, Indiana, before going to Elkhart where he was superintendent for fifteen years. Alton, son of Frost B. Thomas was born in California. He married in Chicago and had one child named Barbara.

WILLIAM SWAYZE THOMAS, b. Nov. 1841
Lavantia Cook, m. at Cedarville, Ind.; d. at Wolf Lake, buried in Leo Cemetery
There were no children

Celia Clark Rosco – second marriage –, m. May 1894 in Noble County; d. Oct. 25, 1897, buried in Wolf Lake Cemetery.
Mamie Thomas, b. 1895; m. at Wolf Lake; d. 1959, buried in Wolf Lake cemetery
George Hively
Frances Hively Graham
children--Judy Favinger, Ellen and James Graham
Katherine Hively Goff
children--Kenneth and Keith
George Hively
children--Sue, Mary Kay, William and Thomas

JAMES THOMAS, b. 1843
Lanie

Ethel Thomas writes: Uncle James went to California when young. My father, Michael Corwin Thomas, received occasional letters from this older brother, and had a picture of the daughters in Salvation Army uniforms. Aunt Estella's daughter, Hazel Sicks has a picture of Uncle James and Aunt Lanie and their four children, two boys and two girls, Ida and May. She says, 'They were all dressed in Salvation Army uniforms in the picture. May was with Uncle James and wife when they were at Uncle William's. She taught Mamie and me to sing a song in Chinese, "Jesus is a rock in a weary land." I can sing it yet. She also gave us silk handkerchiefs made in Chinatown.' After Aunt Lottie Paff's death, two of her children, Edna and Ted, spent some time with Uncle James. Ted writes, "I

can remember Uncle James lived in Selma, California. I was there in 1909, but I can't remember about the family." Edna Paff Eluess writes: "I knew only May Thomas, who belonged to the Salvation Army. I lived with her for a year, then I got married and she was sent someplace else. We lost track of each other, and I have no knowledge of where she is or what has happened to her.

MICHAEL CORWIN THOMAS, b. Jan. 13, 1852; m. Dec. 26, 1878; d. June 7, 1930
Alma Jane Livengood, b. Feb. 6, 1853, d. March 29, 1927 (see also Livengood family)

Edith May, (see below)
Clarence, b. Aug. 8, 1881; d. Oct. 10, 1881
Ethel Estella (see below)
DeWitt Corwin
Florence Lavantia, b. June 24, 1886; d. Feb. 12, 1887
Irving (see below)
Mary Julia (see below)
Lotta Alma (see below)
Ruth Elizabeth (see below)
Esther, b. Sept. 17, 1896; d. Aug. 3, 1897

Michael Corwin Thomas was born at Cedarville, Indiana. He married Alma Jane Livengood at Elkhart, Indiana, on Dec. 26, 1878, in the presence of Michael and Nancy Thomas and of Abram and Mary Livengood.

In the year 1878 they moved to Ellsworth County, Kansas, where during the years 1876-1878 Corwin had proved up on a homestead and built a house and barn, teaching in country schools during the winter months. This quarter section of land was seven miles east and three quarters of mile north of the town of Wilson. All of the children except Ethel were born there. Shortly before her birth her mother had made a visit to her home near Elkhart, Indiana, and Ethel was born there. Edith was, of course, with her mother, and the three returned to the home near Wilson when Ethel was three weeks old. In the spring of 1908 the family moved to a farm six miles east of Manchester, Oklahoma, on the state line between Oklahoma and Kansas. In 1920 Michael Corwin and Alma moved to Winfield, Kansas, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Both Michael Corwin and Alma are buried in the neighborhood

cemetery seven miles east of Wilson and a half mile north, where the three children who died in infancy lie buried.

Edith May Thomas, b. March 22, 1880 in Elisworth Co., Kans.
m. June 12, 1907 at Wilson, Kansas
d. Sept. 7, 1961 at Emporia, Kansas
Frank William Schiller, b. Mar. 6, 1884, Green Bay, Wisc.
d. Aug. 28, 1965, Topeka, Kans.

Francis Thomas Schiller
Alma Katherine Schiller
Lotta Ruth Schiller

Francis Thomas Schiller, b. Feb. 5, 1911, Kirwin, Kans.
m. June 12, 1934, Calhoun, Mo.

Frances Marion Finks
William Richard Schiller
Thomas Clifford (Skip) Schiller

William Richard Schiller, b. Jan. 14, 1937 at Bennett, Colo.
Sandra Jean Kleber, b. Oct. 29, 1939 of Kansas City, Mo.
Julie Ann, b. Jan. 22, 1962 in Chicago, Ill.

Thomas Clifford, b. May 30, 1940, Denver, Colo.
Jacqueline Sue Morgan, b. April 13, 1939 of Westchester, Ill

Alma Katherine Schiller, b. Sept. 4, 1914, Kirwin, Kans.
m. Feb. 20, 1943, Manhattan, Ks.
Alvin Edgar Mulanax, b. April 1, 1912, Denison, Kansas
Roger Louis, b. July 15, 1945 at Hot Springs, Ark.

Lotta Ruth Schiller, b. Dec. 20, 1915, Kirwin, Kans.
m. June 25, 1946, Klamath Falls, Ore.
John Howard Jackson
David Howard Jackson, b. April 2, 1947 at Klamath Falls, Ore.
Mickael Howard Jackson, b. Aug. 27, 1949 at Klamath Falls, Ore.

DeWitt Corwin Thomas, b. Nov. 6, 1884, Wilson, Kansas;
m. June 3, 1920, Medford, Okla.
d. March 17, 1959, Enid, Okla.
Mary Daisy Newcomb Elder, b. June 11, 1882
d. April 16, 1964

Edna Earline Elder and James Hoyt Elder were by Mary Daisy Newcomb Elder's first marriage.
Dorothy was only child of DeWitt Thomas and Mary Daisy Elder

Edna Earline Elder, b. Jan. 21, 1911; m. May, 1925
Howard Woodward, d. April, 1965
Geraldine La Vonne, b. Mar. 10, 1929
Malcolm Howard, b. Nov. 9, 1931

James Hoyt Elder, b. June 5, 1912; m. Sept. 6, 1936
Virgie Viola Pfalser, b. May 15, 1915; m.
Virgil Hoyt, b. Mar. 29, 1939; m. Betty June Elder Mar. 19, 1966; one child Kelly Dawn
Douglas Joe, b. Dec. 30, 1941; m. Nadine Elder Nov. 18, 1964
Virginia Kay, b. Feb. 15, 1943
Dorothy Thomas, b. June 8, 1921; m. June 3, 1944
Hugh Cozart, b. April 8, 1917
Marcia Ann, b. Nov. 12, 1946
Wayne Dean, b. June 13, 1948.

Irving Thomas, b. May 19, 1888; d. April 8, 1957.
Gladys Brooks, b. Dec. 1, 1986; d. Jan. 6, 1957.
Gladys Marie

Gladys Marie Thomas, b. Mar. 30, 1919; m. Jan. 3, 1960
Leroy Ferguson, b. Dec. 20, 1907; d. May 15, 1965
Charles LeRoy, b. Sept. 23, 1960
Lee Marie Caryen, b. July 20, 1963

Mary Julia Thomas, b. July 13, 1890, Wilson, Kansas
m. Oct. 16, 1912, Wakita, Okla.
d. May 3, 1962, Lancaster, Calif.
Alvin Samuel Prouse, b. Feb. 14, 1885, Anthony, Kans.
d. Jan. 3, 1929, Los Angeles, Calif.

Winifred May
Thomas Alvin

Winifred May Prouse, b. Aug. 22, 1917, Los Angeles,
m. Nov. 9, 1935, Liberty, Mo.
Robert Sidney Jensen, b. Sept. 12, 1914, Sheboygan, Wisc.
Judith Ann

Winifred was later divorced and on October 5, 1946 married Thoral Etzel Gilland in Kailua, Territory of Hawaii.

Judith Ann Jensen, b. June 2, 1939, Enid, Okla.
m. July 3, 1958, Canoga Park, California
Dan Fowler Paulsen,
Gil Fowler Paulsen, b. Jan. 13, 1960, Lompoc, Calif.
Kelley Joel Paulsen, b. Dec. 27, 1961, Lompoc.

Thomas Alvin Prouse, b. Mar. 2, 1921, Alhambra, Calif.
m. May 22, 1957
Francis Maxine Payton
Vickie Helen, b. Nov. 10, 1958, LaJolla, Calif.

Lotta Alma Thomas, b. Oct. 6, 1892, Wilson, Kans.
m. June 2, 1921, Harper, Kans.
d. June 9, 1944, Winfield, Kans.
Charles Lime, b. July 16, 1895, Carthage, Mo.
d. July 11, 1951, Winfield, Kans.
Ruth Elizabeth
Ella Jean
Kathryn Alma

Ruth Elizabeth Lime, b. Jan. 18, 1924, Danville, Kans.
m. April 25, 1944, Miami, Okla.
Duane E. Walker
Ronald Duane, b. April 4, 1945, Winfield, Kans.
Carol Jean, b. Jan. 13, 1948, Rockledge, Fla.
Kathryn Suzanne, b. Jan. 18, 1949, Lawrence, Kans.

Ruth Elizabeth Lime was divorced from Duane E. Walker and later married Leo A. Braun. From this marriage two children were born:
Richard Lee, b. Nov. 17, 1956, Wichita, Kans.
Les Alvin, b. April 16, 1959, Wichita, Kans.

Ronald Duane Walker, m. Sept. 11, 1962, Ft. Polk, La. Chapel
Michele Wells, b. Sept. 24, 1944, Wichita
Ronald Duane Walker, Jr., b. Jan. 31, 1963 in Wichita, Kans.
Richard Lee Walker, b. June 11, 1964 at Ft. Rucker, Alabama

Carol Jean Walker, m. May 6, 1966 in San Antonio, Texas.
David Ogden.
Ella Jean Lime, b. Aug. 24, 1925, Harper, Kans;
m. Aug. 24, 1941
Lyle Fredrick Clark
Lyle Fredrick, b. Nov. 19, 1943, Winfield, Kansas;
Wife's name is Donna
Ursula Josephine, b. Oct. 5, 1944, Winfield, Kans;
Married Bert Kindred
Ella Jean Lime Clark later was divorced and married
Harold Nazworthy, b. Aug. 30, 1925, Vinita, Okla;
m. June 17, 1952

Kathryn Alma Lime, b. Oct. 10, 1926, Danville, Kans.;
m. Feb. 20, 1944, Winfield, Kans.
Leonard John Grzemkowski
Larry Leonard, b. Dec. 10, 1944, Winfield, Kans.;
Patricia Ann, b. June 7, 1953, Milwaukee, Wisc.

Ruth Elizabeth Thomas, b. May 10, 1894, Wilson, Kans.;
m. Dec. 26, 1919, Anthony, Ks.;
d. April 12, 1934, Silver Spring, Md.
Charles Ranger Enlow, b. June 28, 1893, Spivey, Kans.;
Barbara Ruth
Robert Edward
Marcia

Barbara Ruth Enlow, b. Mar. 26, 1921, Ft. Collins, Colo.
m. April 5, 1945, Silver Spring, Md.
Charles Edgar Henshall
Charles Austin Henshall, b. Feb. 13, 1951, Kansas City, Kansas
Patricia Elizabeth Henshall, b. July 28, 1954, Kansas City, Mo.

Clarence Fremont Thomas, b. April 25, 1889, Pueblo, Colo.
m. in 1912
d. in 1958

Ruby Hunter

Clarence F., Jr., b. 1917; married but had no children

Genevieve Clarissa, b. Dec. 27, 1915 at Muskogee; Married Charles Herzog in 1935. They had 3 children:

Charles, Jr., b. 1936; married and has 2 children

Ruby Gwendolyn, b. 1939; married Richard Horn and has 3 children

Jenny Wren, b. 1950

Ruby Gwendolyn, b. Dec. 27, 1915; married Larry Barnickel and has 4 children.

Jere Hunter, b. 1919 or 1920; married June Webber and has two children

Betty Sue, b. Sept. 1927; married Nick Spotts

Paul Eugene, b. 1929; married Marcella Wynn and had 3 children

Dale Hunter, b. 1931; married Virginia; had one child

ESTELLA ELIZABETH THOMAS, b. April 10, 1859, Cedarville, Allen County, Ind.; d. March 1941, Nappanee, Ind.; buried, Wolflake, Ind.

Joel D. Foster, b. 1851, Antwerp, Ohio; d. 1896, Sheridan, Ark.; buried, Sheridan, Ark.

Hazel
Ruth
Gladys
Lucile
Clarence

Hazel Foster, b. Aug. 15, 1890; married May 16, 1918 Larsh Sittler, d. Dec. 23, 1956; 6 children:

Mary Lou, b. Feb. 7, 1919; married Walter McAdams; two children:

Mary Ann, b. Jan. 17, 1944; married Marvin McClain and had two children, Mike and Debbie

Barbara, b. Dec. 3, 1945; married Francis Naylor and had two children, Charles Robert and Gregory.

Mary Lou was later divorced and married Charles Caldwell who had one daughter, Susan

Elizabeth, b. Jan. 19, 1921; married John Birden in 1943; four children:

Gail, b. Dec. 14, 1946
Larsh, b. Feb. 5, 1949
Leslie, b. April 3, 1954
Lisa, b. Nov. 2, 1956

Patricia Gail, b. Sept. 14, 1922; d. Sept. 16, 1922

Eva Joan, b. Feb. 21, 1924; married Donald Hill Oct. 30, 1942; 6 children:

Sharon Patricia, married Bob Mitchem; one daughter, Katrina Marie

Damon
Richard
David
Alan
Denise

Claire, b. Jan. 25, 1926; married A. J. Hessel in 1946; four children:

David, b. Dec. 27, 1947
Mark, b. Jan 14, 1949
Diane, b. April 24, 1950
Patrice, b. Oct. 29, 1955.

Lucile, b. April 21, 1929; married John Forbes in June 1947; d. June 8, 1966; 7 children:

Teresa, b. Aug. 4, 1948
Cassandra, b. Oct. 20, 1949
Jan, b. Dec. 5, 1950
Perry, b. June 9, 1952
Romana, b. Jan. 22, 1954
Abbie, b. July 8, 1956
Lynn, b. Dec. 30, 1960

After Larsh Sittler's death, Hazel Foster Sittler married Clarence E. Sicks on March 2, 1963 at Silver Lake, Ind.

Nancy Ruth Foster, b. June 5, 1893, Sheridan, Ark.
m. July 5, 1916, Kimmell, Ind.

Hubert H. Hockert

David Hugh, b. July 29, 1917, Millersburg, Ind.; Married Jeanette Richmond, Nov. 1937. 3 children:

Fred, married Linda Stump, 1956; 2 children, Brad and Beth Ann.

48

Robert Edward Enlow, b. Aug. 19, 1923, Abilene, Kans.;
m. July 31, 1946, Mahtomedi, Minn.
Helen Lois Thompson
Constance Lois, b. Oct. 9, 1947, St. Paul, Minn.
Thomas Charles, b. Nov. 23, 1949, Battle Creek, Mich.
Shelley Thana, b. July 23, 1958, Jackson, Miss.

Marcia Ann Enlow, b. July 21, 1931, Tacoma Park, Md.;
m. Aug. 14, 1956.
Paul Lawrence Berg, b. Aug. 12, 1931, Casper, Wyoming
Sara Theresa Kimberly, b. April 14, 1957, Boston, Mass.
Kristian Joseph Lars, b. Nov. 23, 1958, Cambridge, Mass.
Sigrid Eva Marie, b. June 10, 1960, Benson, Minn.
John Benedict Dekoven, b. April 2, 1964, Grand Rapids, Minn.
Solveig Clair Elizabeth, b. Dec. 11, 1966, Grand Rapids, Minn.

ORILLA JENNIE THOMAS, b. 1853, Cedarville, Ind.
m. in Cedarville, Ind.
d. Nov. 26, 1895, Parsons, Kans.
Louis DeFay Potter, b. 1851, Niles, Michigan
d. Dec. 21, 1902, Pueblo, Colorado
Clyde DeFay, b. Sept. 8, 1880; m. May 28, 1905
Elva Jane
Edna Thomaselle
Vida Estelle
Luther DeWitt
Laura, died in infancy

Clyde DeFay, m. May 28, 1905
Elsie May McClelland
Helen Fay Potter
Martin Luther Potter

Helen Fay Potter, b. Mar. 8, 1906, Steilacoom, Wash.; m. Feb. 19, 1938
Joseph Kenneth Hore, Jr., b. Mar. 21, 1903, Bute, Mont.
There were no children

Martin Luther Potter, b. Nov. 8, 1913, Tacoma, Wash.; m. June 20, 1940, Tacoma.
Anne Paddleford
John Martin, b. Dec. 30, 1942
Ruth Anne, b. Nov. 9, 1944
Jane Elizabeth, b. Nov. 4, 1947

Elva Jane Potter married Herbert Foster,
Lived in Pueblo, Colorado

Edna Potter married Mr. Crum
Lived in Illinois

Vida Potter married Tom Speakman,
Lived in Pueblo, Colorado

Luther DeWitt Potter married Elizabeth Guenser; children:
Laura, b. 1921, married Dr. T. McLaughlin in 1945;
3 children: Michael, Sheila and Brian
Allen R., b. in 1924, married Mary Lou Braun in 1961,
one child: Susan.

FREMONT J. THOMAS, b. 1855, Cedarville, Ind.
m. 1880, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
d. 1919, buried in Greenhill Cemetery, Muskogee, Oklahoma
Elizabeth (Bess) Kuenzi, b. Feb. 14, 1855 in Indiana
d. July 11, 1946, buried in Greenhill Cemetery, Muskogee, Okla.
Bernice Elizabeth
Clarence Fremont

Bernice Elizabeth Thomas, b. April 25, 1884, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; m. Sept. 9, 1909 in Sallisaw, Okla.;
d. Jan. 3, 1960, Muskogee, Okla.
Charles Madison Whaley
Mary Jacqueline, b. Aug. 14, 1915 at Muskogee, Okla.
Married B. M. Carnes at Muskogee, Aug. 18, 1957.
Charla Berenice, b. Feb. 22, 1918. Married Charles Buell Mayes, Jr. at Muskogee, Feb. 4, 1950.
3 children: Charles B., b. Nov. 27, 1950
Nancy Carroll, b. July 13, 1955
Cherry Jean, b. Aug. 2, 1957

Steven, married Cathy Mitchel, 1963; 2 children,
Tad and Lynlee
Candace
J. Richard, b. June 20, 1919 at Goshen, Ind.;
married Jeanne Mischler in Nappanee,
Ind., Nov. 1942; one child:
John William, b. Nov. 13, 1946
Jeffrey Foster, b. June 1, 1927; married Carolyn
Rohrer, June 1954

Gladys Foster, b. March 3, 1883, Allen County, Ind.;
d. May 1940, Osceola, Elkhart Co.,
Indiana; buried, Kimmell, Ind.
Mr. Ernheart

Lucile Foster, b. July 8, 1884, Allen County, Ind.;
m. May 1907; d. June 8, 1966;
buried, Brimfield, Ohio
Alva Woodward, d. March 1957.

Clarence H. Foster, b. Nov. 9, 1887
Lurla Holston
Maurice (now deceased)
Dick
Clarence later divorced Lurla Holston and remarried:
Lou Green, d. 1956
Doyle, b. 1924
After Lou's death, Clarence married Arlene

EMMA VICTORIA THOMAS, b. 1826, Cedarville, Ind.;
m. Sept. 29, 1883, Cedarville, Ind.;
d. Jan. 1931, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; buried
Lindenwood Cemetary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Theodore Hale Ashley, b. June 3, 1859, Antwerp, Ohio;
d. June 1946, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; buried
Lindenwood Cemetary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Dwight Hale
Ralph Thomas
William Raymond
Esther Edith
Kenneth David

Dwight Hale Ashley, b. Oct. 2, 1884, Ft. Wayne, Ind.;
m. in Delta, Colo.
Ruth K. Herrick, b. in Wabash, Ind.
William
Horace
David
Roger

Ralph Thomas Ashley, b. Jan. 10, 1886, Ft. Wayne;
m. in Chickasha, Okla.
d. June 9, 1966; buried, Tucson,
Arizona
Grace C
Marian Wright
Ralph, Jr.
Clifford

William Raymond Ashley, b. July 27, 1888, Ft. Wayne,
Ind.; m. in Chicago, Ill.
Alice A, deceased
Mrs. Jean Hall
Kenneth

Esther Edith Ashley, b. Mar. 14, 1891, Ft. Wayne, Ind.;
m. in Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Gerald Hawk
Gerald, Jr.
Ashley

Kenneth David, b. Oct. 7, 1892, Ft. Wayne, Ind.;
m. Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Bertha Brown
Elenora
Clare

LOTTIE THOMAS, b. May 7, 1863, Cedarville, Ind.;
m. Oct. 23, 1884, Cedarville, Ind.;
d. Jan. 19, 1893, Santa Anna, Calif.;
buried, Santa Anna, Calif.
Ellsworth Daniel Paff, d. Dec. 18, 1915, Cedarville, Ind.;
buried, Leo, Indiana
Edna Lottie, b. Oct. 5, 1885
Edwin E., b. Feb. 13, 1888

Grace Lillian Thomas, b. Feb. 1, 1899; m. Oct. 23, 1927.
Marion M. Jackman, d. March 30, 1935, Pontiac, Mich.
Miles Thomas, b. Nov. 20, 1930; unmarried
Richard Clare, b. Aug. 9, 1935; married Catherine Holz, Jan. 1966
Mary Elizabeth, b. Oct. 22, 1937, married Richard William Dingler, b. June 18, 1960.
David Alan, b. April 10, 1961
Jeffrey Scott, b. Nov. 23, 1962
Michael Paul, b. Nov. 20, 1966

Gard Clarence Thomas, b. July 8, 1902, Woodburn, Ind.; m. Jan. 31,
Elizabeth May Jackman
Helen Meriam, b. July 18, 1923, Orland, Ind.; m. Carl Raymond Carlock; 3 children:
Roger Thomas, b. Dec. 13, 1944
Richard Ellsworth, B. Aug. 23, 1947
David Lee, b. May 7, 1951
Lillian Lucile Thomas, b. Feb. 5, 1925; m. William W. Marshall; 4 children:
Joanne, b. Oct. 21, 1952
Timothy, b. Aug. 9, 1954
Paul, b. March 12, 1959
Bonnie Jay, b. Oct. 20, 1964
Ruth Leone Thomas, b. Nov. 18, 1930, Milford, Mich.;
Silvia Anne Thomas, b. Sept. 17, 1937, Milford, Mich.; m. Robert Kimbal; 2 children:
Kennie Tywn, b. Mar. 29, 1959
Dick William, b. July 29, 1966.

EVELYN MARY THOMAS, b. Sept. 17, 1872, Cedarville, Ind.; d. Nov. 28, 1925, Leo, Ind.
Ellsworth Daniel Paff, b. Cedarville, Ind.; d. Dec. 18, 1915, Cedarville, Ind.; Buried, Leo, Ind.
Alfred, d. 1915
Wilfred Earnest, b. May 1, 1903, Cedarville, Ind.
Dorothy May, b. May 23, 1905, Cedarville, Ind.
Marjory Paff, b. April 13, 1907, Indiana; m. Howard Ellsbury in 1927; d. 1928, Connersville, Ind.
Dana Winfield, b. Sept. 18, 1913, Cedarville, Ind.

Wilfred Earnest Paff, m. July 21, 1926, Coldwater, Mich.
Sarah Louise Smith
Joyce Lenore, b. June 20, 1932, Coldwater, Mich.

Dana Winfield, m. Jan. 19, 1935, Coldwater, Mich.
Lillian May Bogart, b. Nov. 15, 1918; 6 children:
Orlo Ray, b. Dec. 3, 1936; m. in Coldwater, Mich. June 7, 1958 to Barbara Ann Mitchell, b. June 6, 1940.; 4 children
Andrew Dana, b. March 14, 1959, Newport Beach, Calif.
Aaron Ray, b. July 3, 1960, Newport Beach, Calif.
Karen Lianne, b. Jan. 23, 1962, Newport Beach
Michael Damon, b. May 28, 1964, Newport Beach
Lyell Duane, b. May 28, 1938, Sturgis, Mich.; m. Mar. 27, 1960 to Ethel Ann Cripps, b. June 3, Santa Ana, Calif.; 3 children
Marjorie Alice, b. March 8, 1961, Anakein, Calif.
Jeffery Duane, b. Jan. 1, 1963, Anakein, Calif.
Cathie Marie, b. Oct. 5, 1965, Canyonville, Ore.
Arden Winfield Paff, b. July 25, 1940, Coldwater, Mich.; m. March 23, 1963 to Joanne Cameron, b. Aug. 30, 1945, Santa Ana, Calif.; one child
Adam Dean, b. Oct. 23, 1963, Newport Beach, Calif.
A 2nd child expected
Sharon Kay Paff, b. Oct. 24, 1944, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Shirley May Paff, b. Sept. 20, 1954, Kalamazoo, Mich.
Edwin Lee Paff, b. Aug. 22, 1957, Newport Beach, California

Recent Notes on the Thomas Family

Ruth Schiller and Barbara Henshall both wrote interesting bits about themselves when they sent in the reports for their families. Knowing how much such up-to-date information would mean to all the cousins, I asked permission to use for similar statements, material already received in letters. So beginning with sister Edith's family, here are the messages.

FRANCIS THOMAS SCHILLER
Rt. 3, 1613 Richmond Drive
Pleasant Hill, Missouri

Here at Pleasant Hill, Mo., Frankie is teaching 4 classes of sophomore English and 2 of senior Literature. I am not now in the lumber yard but am driving a school bus and doing some painting. Bill is taking out a year in his residency (in medicine) to experiment with dogs and teach 2 classes, one in surgery and one in anatomy at North Western Medical School, getting his Master's degree this year at their expense.

Skip is an artist and teaches in Antioch, Jr. High in Kansas City North. He is working on his Master's in Fine Arts, studying both in Kansas City and the University of Kansas. His wife Jackie teaches 4th grade in an Antioch grade school.

ALMA KATHERINE SCHILLER MULANAX
2222 College Heights Road
Manhattan, Kansas

We have lived in Manhattan, Kansas for nineteen years. My husband is a professor at Kansas State University teaching in the School of Commerce.

Our son, Roger, is a Junior at K. State majoring in Architectural Design. He has been a member of the National Guard for over three years and now has the rank of Sergeant. He calls his two-week summer camp his vacation.

I am a registered nurse and have been on the staff at the Student Health Clinic on the campus for seven years.

LOTTA RUTH SCHILLER JACKSON
914 Saline
Topeka, Kansas

David is a sophomore at Kansas State University and during the school year is living at 1200 Centennial Drive, Manhattan, Kansas. Mike is a senior at Topeka High School. It is probably known that I graduated from Fort Hays Kansas State College in 1936 with a B.S. in Education, that I taught school for five years and am presently an 18-year employ at The Menninger Foundation as a medical secretary.

DOROTHY MARY THOMAS COZART
Route 2
Waukomis, Oklahoma

For the past 20 years Hugh and I have lived on a farm southwest of Waukomis, Oklahoma. I have taught high school English for the last ten years, and am presently teaching in Enid, Oklahoma. During this time I also received my master's degree in English from Oklahoma State University. Our two children, Marcia and Wayne are both students at Oklahoma State. Marcia a junior, spent six weeks last summer at the Ecumenical Institute in Chicago. Wayne, a freshman, is presently serving on a national planning committee for the University Christian Move-

GLADYS MARIE THOMAS FERGUSON
Wakita, Oklahoma.

When you come, you will find me with Charles LeRoy and Lee Caryen waiting for you. We seldom go farther from home than to the Brooks farm, although we did go at the end of July this year for three happy days with Aunt Ethel in the Schiller home in Lebo, Kansas. Come when you can.

WINIFRED PROUSE GILLAND
10800 Dale Ave. 125
Stanton, Calif.

Married life for Gill and me began with four years of living in the Hawaiian Islands, two of which were on a 37 foot double-ended Tahiti Ketch, with me chronically seasick. When we

returned to the States, we moved into a charming old barn of a house built on the side of a hill – two flights to get there – then three levels once you were inside, a living room with large picture windows on three sides, each with its own spectacular view, and out our back door, hilly country with good deer hunting as Tom could tell you. It was here that Gill began his career with North American Aviation, where he has been now for over 15 years, and here that Judy married a charming southern boy, originally from Minnesota. Gill went into North American Field Service Division, and I can count more than a dozen places where we have lived for some time, one of them in Oklahoma where we had hoped to see many of you, but were suddenly called back to California where we now live. We are able to slip away frequently to the Paulsens with our six year old grandson Gill and a charming little pixie 4 year old grand daughter, Kelly. Grandpa Gill is presently working on the "moon shot" and teaching Astronauts some of the various phases of the North American engines which will get them there and pull them into orbit. The rest is "classified information" that I don't know myself. At any rate it is most interesting, and Gill loves it, which is very important. When the Apollo shot goes off after the first of the year, think of us. If any of you are in California, we have plenty of room and would like to see you.

THOMAS ALVIN PROUSE
211 S. Nevada
Oceanside, Calif.

"A House by Prouse" was the card that came in a letter from Tom a number of years ago. Recently he writes of his little daughter: Vickie was born with crippling birth defects, spinal bifida. After four operations she is able to walk with braces and crutches, and is now in public school. I get up early to help get her ready. Frances takes her to school and picks her up, and now I am a school teacher. But the methods are different than when I was in 2nd grade. Having missed schooling before, whe is behind, but is catching up fast.

RUTH LIME BRAUN
6923 Tallahassee
San Antonio, Texas

The last few years have found me teaching in the grades here in San Antonio, Texas, while my husband, Leo Braun, and my son, Ronald Walker, both of the U. S. Navy, are, or have been in Viet Nam. Ronald has now returned, happy to be again with his wife and little daughter.

JEAN LIME NAZWORTHY
2138 N. Delaware
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Jean was ill in the fall, so ill that she called her Aunt Ethel to spend a week in their home. She was on her way to recovery then, and since has made steady improvement. Her calls by telephone are heartening. In her last she said, "I am working now", then added, "here at home."

KATHRYN LIME GRZEMKOWSKI
Leonard's Gift and Jewelry Shop
Waterloo, Wisconsin

Kathryn has given names and dates, but no one of you has been in her home as I have, or had a visit from the family as we did here in the Schiller home a few years ago. You do not know her fine husband, Leonard, a member of a family of watch makers. Leonard and Kathryn were living in Milwaukee when I visited them when the children were small. Kathryn told me then that they were about to become members of a nearby Presbyterian church. They were living in the delightful town of Waterloo, not far from Madison when I made my second visit. "We're Methodists now." Leonard informed me, and the size of the town explained why. Kathryn writes in her letter that Larry is now a senior in the Wisconsin State University at Whitewater and that Patricia is in the 8th grade, a busy little bee. I wish you knew her.

BARBARA RUTH ENLOW HENSHALL
101 N. Kansas
Chanute, Kansas

Barbara graduated from K-State in 1942; was in the WAAC for a few months; met Charley in Virginia. He is an attorney graduated from K. U. Law School in 1940. We have lived in Chanute for 20 years.

Pat is in Jr. High. She's a very good student and has won a medal in the science fair the last two years and is an avid reader, as is her mother. Charles is in Sr. High. He went to St. James in Faribault, Minnesota and Western Military Academy in Alton, Illinois, but will be home this year.

We are all confirmed in the Episcopal Church as is Bob and his family.

ROBERT EDWARD ENLOW
2002 Rockwood Road
Silver Spring, Maryland

Connie is a sophomore at the University of Maryland, study-art. Tom is a senior in high school and has a part time job with a home builder, full time in the summer. Shelley is in the 3rd grade and divides her time between her playmates and her Dalmation pups.

My good wife works next door at the jr. high as a nurse's aid and thoroughly enjoys the work and the children. Yours truly works for the Dept. of Agriculture as an editor. My section puts out Farmer's Bulletins, Home and Garden Bulletins and various miscellaneous publications.

MARCIA ENLOW BERG
Box 422
Grand Rapids, Minn.

Below I send what Marcia has written for the recent notes asking for up-to-date information from the cousins of the Michael and Alma Livengood Thomas family.

"Father Paul Berg studied at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. and later at the Royal Library in Copenhagen, Denmark. He then studied for a year at the University of Gottingen in

Germany. He was graduated from Seminary and the University of Minnesota, and later from the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Mass. in June, 1959, having spent four years in study there. Since then he has been vicar in Benson, Minn., with time given also to Morris and Appleton during the three and a half years there. Father Paul is now rector in Grand Rapids, Minnesota."

It may seem to you that Marcia has written of her husband rather than of herself, yet that is not true for their lives are bound together in one life of Christian devotion. Marcia, herself, a graduate nurse finds innumerable ways in which to supplement the work of her husband. The four days in May that I spent with this delightful family will always stand out in my memory.

90

Index

NAME	PAGE
--------, Albert	52
--------, Anne	10, 12
--------, Arlene	85
--------, Barbara	60
--------, Birdie	34
--------, Castle	52
---------, Foster	62
---------, Howard	25
---------, Ina	25
---------, Irving	53, 54
--------, Jane	9
----------, Jonathan	60
---------, Lisbian	60
--------, Loyce	34, 36
--------, Maggie	52
---------, Mary	53
---------, Robert	60
----------, Sarah	60
---------, Virginia	84
(Thomas), Leverton	29
(Thomas), Lotta	57, 58, 59, 60
(Thomas), Mary	29, 57, 58, 60
(Thomas), Mary Julia	51
(Thomas), Michael	34, 38, 43
(Thomas), Michael Corwin	38
(Thomas), Nancy	34, 38, 43
(Thomas), Nancy Julia	31
(Thomas), Rachel	66
(Thomas), Ruth	55, 57, 58, 59
(Thomas), S. Mark	42
(Thomas), Walter	57
(Thomas), Willhugh	70
(Thomas), William	52
(Thomas), William Edward	70
(Thomas), Willliams Swayze	36
(Thomas, Ruth Elizabeth	55
Abbott, Celia	12
Abbott, Charlotte	12
Alwood, Garcia	71
Alwood, J. K. [Pastor]	32
Anderson, ---------	69
Arkills, Mary Sachett	78

NAME	PAGE
Ashley, Alice A.	85
Ashley, Betsy	61, 62
Ashley, Betsy Ann	61, 62
Ashley, Clare	85
Ashley, Clarissa	61, 62
Ashley, Clifford	85
Ashley, David	85
Ashley, Dwight	85
Ashley, Dwight Hale	38
Ashley, Elenora	85
Ashley, Emma	52
Ashley, Esther Edith	38, 85
Ashley, George	38
Ashley, George H.	61, 62
Ashley, Grace C.	85
Ashley, Hale	52
Ashley, Harriet	61, 62
Ashley, Horace	85
Ashley, Jane	61
Ashley, John	30, 61, 62
Ashley, John J.	61
Ashley, Josephine	38
Ashley, Kenneth	85
Ashley, Kenneth David	38, 85
Ashley, Marian Wright	85
Ashley, Phoebe	61, 62
Ashley, Polly	61, 62
Ashley, Rachel	61, 62
Ashley, Ralph [Jr.]	85
Ashley, Ralph Thomas	38, 85
Ashley, Rebecca	61, 62
Ashley, Roger	85
Ashley, Theodore Hale	83, 85
Ashley, William	61, 62, 85
Ashley, William Raymond	38, 85
Baarnickel, Dale Hunter	84
Bacome, Elizabeth	77
Bacon, Elizabeth	15, 16, 17, 20, 21
Bacon, Henry	16, 17, 21
Barnickel Paul Eugene	84
Barnickel, Betty Sue	84
Barnickel, Jere Hunter	84
Barnickel, Larry	84
Bartles, Charles [Mrs.]	69

NAME	PAGE
Beachgood, Anna	79
Beacom, Elizabeth	22, 40, 42
Beacom, Henry	22, 42
Beatty, J. A.	25
Beatty, Rebecca	68
Beatty, Susan	68
Beatty, William	68
Beaty, Amos	63
Beaty, Charles	63
Beaty, Eldora	63
Beaty, Ethel	63
Beaty, Floyd	63
Beaty, Forest [Mrs.]	63
Beaty, Forrest	63
Beaty, Gladys	63
Beaty, James	63, 64
Beaty, James P.	63
Beaty, John L.	63
Beaty, Josophean	63
Beaty, Joy	63
Beaty, Mary	63
Beaty, Olive	63
Beaty, Rachel	63
Beaty, Raymond	63
Beaty, Rebecca	63
Beaty, Samuel J.	63
Beaty, Virgil	63
Beaty, William	63, 64
Bechtel, [Mr.]	28
Bechtel, Jacob	29
Bedine, ----------	60
Bedine/Bodine, Lisbi	78
Beechgood, Anna	35
Bender, Levon	45
Benedick, Julia	25
Benedict, Juliet	40
Benham, Eunice E.	11
Benham, George	11
Benham, George	11
Benham, Lillian	11
Berg, John Benedict Dekoven	83
Berg, Kristian Joseph Lars	83
Berg, Marcia Enlow	90
Berg, Paul Lawrence	83
Berg, Sara Theresa	83

NAME	PAGE
Berg, Sigrid Eva Marie	83
Berg, Solveig Clair Elizabeth	83
Billilngs, Isabella	29
Billings, Louisa	29
Billings, Noyes	29
Billings, William W.	29
Birden, Claire	84
Birden, Gail	84
Birden, John	84
Birden, Larsh	84
Birden, Leslie	84
Birden, Lisa	84
Birden, Lucile	84
Bixby, Aaron	62
Bodine/Bedine, Lisbi	78
Bogart, Lillian May	87
Bohart, Margaret	21
Bohart, Samuel	21
Braun, Leo A.	82
Braun, Les Alvin	82
Braun, Mary Lou	83
Braun, Richard Lee	82
Braun, Ruth Lime	89
Bristol, Mary	61
Brooks, Gladys	58, 81
Brown, ----------	69
Brown, Alda A.	74
Brown, Alice A.	73
Brown, Bertha	85
Brown, Charles Mann	25
Brown, Mary Jane	26
Bryant, Thomas	12
Buchholz, Albert	43, 66
Buchholz, Amanda Jane Thomas	70
Buell, Don Carlos [General]	44
Bunnel, Edmond	62
Caldwell, Charles	84
Caldwell, Susan	84
Cameron, Joanne	87
Carlock, Carl Raymond	87
Carlock, David Lee	87
Carlock, Richard Ellsworth	87
Carlock, Roger Thomas	87
Carnes, B. M.	83

NAME	PAGE
Carnes, Chalra Berenice	83
Carney, George	67
Cash, James	62
Cash, James	62
Castle, N. [Bishop]	20, 77
Castle, [Bishop]	76
Castle, Ernest	76
Church, Freeman	24
Church, E. P. [Rev.]	22, 24, 42
Church, Elizabeth	25
Church, Enos P.	22
Clark, Celia E.	35
Cleveland, S. E.	73
Cole, Mary	12
Colwell, Mary	76
Cook, Lavantia	35, 80
Cook, Lucretia W.	35
Cowley, William C.	14
Cozart, Dorothy Mary Thomas	88
Cozart, Dorothy Thomas	48
Cozart, Hugh	81
Cozart, Marcia	88
Cozart, Marcia Ann	81
Cozart, Wayne	88
Cozart, Wayne Dean	81
Crawford, Harriet Frances	78
Cripps, Ethel Ann	87
Crum, --------	62
Crum, [Mr.]	83
Day, Oliver	4, 6
Day, Oliver [Sen.]	6
Day, Squire	6
Deal, Audie [Mrs.]	76
Depew, [Dr.]	36
Devanter,	30
Dingler, David Alan	87
Dingler, Michael Paul	87
Dingler, Richard William	87
Douglas, John	22
Dowling, L. R. [Mrs.]	71, 73
Dryden, Alexander	1
Dryden, Loyce [Mrs.]	48, 71, 73
Edwards, John	61, 62
Elder, Daisy	59

NAME	PAGE
Elder, Daisy Newcomb	59
Elder, Douglas Joe	81
Elder, Edna Earline	81
Elder, James Hoyt	81
Elder, Mary Daisy Newcomb	81
Elder, Virgil Hoyt	81
Elder, Virginia Kay	81
Ellsbury, Howard	87
Eluess, Edna Paff	80
Ely, [Lieutenant]	41
Enlow, Barbara Ruth	82, 90
Enlow, Charles	59, 60
Enlow, Charles Ranger	82
Enlow, Connie	90
Enlow, Constance Lois	83
Enlow, Marcia	90
Enlow, Marcia Ann	83
Enlow, Marcie	82
Enlow, Robert Edward	82, 83, 90
Enlow, Shelley	90
Enlow, Shelley Thana	83
Enlow, Thomas Charles	83
Enlow, Tom	90
Ernheart, [Mr.]	85
Everhart, James	41
Everhart, Phoebe	25
Fairchild, E. T.	56
Faraley, Alice	25
Favinger, Judy	80
Feely, Pearl	75
Ferguson, Charles Leroy	81, 88
Ferguson, Gladys Marie Thomas	88
Ferguson, Lee Caryen	88
Ferguson, Lee Marie Caryen	81
Ferguson, Leroy	81
Finks, Frances Marion	81
Forbes, Abbie	84
Forbes, Cassandra	84
Forbes, Jan	84
Forbes, John	84
Forbes, Lynn	84
Forbes, Perry	84
Forbes, Romana	84
Forbes, Teresa	84

NAME	PAGE
Forster, Nancy Ruth	84
Foster, Clarence	84
Foster, Clarence H.	38, 85
Foster, Gladys	38, 84, 85
Foster, Hazel	38, 84
Foster, Herbert	83
Foster, Joel D.	38, 84
Foster, Lucile	38, 84
Foster, Nancy Ruth	38
Foster, Ruth	84
Gilland, Thoral Etzel	82
Gilland, Winifred Prouse	88
Goff, Katherine Hively	80
Goff, Keigh	80
Goff, Kenneth	80
Goodale, J. P. [Captain]	41
Goodrich, Eliza C.	29
Goodrich, Elizur [Jr.]	29
Goodwin, Grace A.	72
Goodwin, Grace Adele	25
Graham, Ellen	80
Graham, Frances Hively	80
Graham, James	80
Graham, Judy	80
Grambling, Olivia	25
Grandling, Olivia	25
Green Lou	85
Green, Agnes	38
Green, Elizabeth M.	38
Green, James [Rev.]	38
Griswold, Ann Elizabeth	62, 63
Griswold, Charles W.	62
Griswold, Elizabeth	62
Griswold, Francis M.	62
Griswold, George W.	62
Griswold, Harriet	62
Griswold, Jane A.	62
Griswold, Jeremiah	62
Griswold, Joseph D.	62
Griswold, Nancy Julia	30, 31, 62, 79
Griswold, Plloy	30
Griswold, Richard A.	62
Griswold, Riley	30, 61, 62
Grizwold, Polly Ashley	62
Grizwold, Stephen	61, 62
Groat, Elizabeth	62
Grzemkowksi, Larry	89
Grzemkowski, Kathryn Lime	89
Grzemkowski, Larry Leonard	82
Grzemkowski, Leonard	89
Grzemkowski, Leonard John	82
Grzemkowski, Patricia	89
Grzemkowski, Patricia Ann	82
Guenser, Elizabeth	83
Gump, Jacob [Minister]	63
Hall, Jean [Mrs.]	85
Hand, Nehemiah	22
Hartman, Susie Thomas	76
Hathaway, Ann P.	7
Hawk, Ashley	85
Hawk, Gerald	85
Hawk, Gerald [Jr.]	85
Henderson, ---------	37, 79
Henderson, Luemma	52
Henshall, Barbara	88
Henshall, Barbara Ruth Enlow	90
Henshall, Charles Austin	82
Henshall, Charles Edgar	82
Henshall, Charley	90
Henshall, Charlie	90
Henshall, Pat	90
Henshall, Patricia Elizabeth	82
Herrick, Ruth K.	85
Herzog, Charles	84
Herzog, Charles [Jr.]	84
Herzog, Ruby Gwendolyn	84
Hessel, A. J.	84
Hessel, David	84
Hessel, Diane	84
Hessel, Mark	84
Hessel, Patrice	84
Hicks, [Mrs.]	3
Hicks, Lena	18, 20, 21, 22
Hilary, [Rev.]	68
Hill, Alan	84
Hill, Damon	84
Hill, David	84

NAME	PAGE
Hill, Denise	84
Hill, Donald	84
Hill, Richard	84
Hill, Sharon Patricia	84
Hively, Frances	80
Hively, Frances Celia	36
Hively, George	80
Hively, George W.	35
Hively, Katherine	80
Hively, Katheryn Elizabeth	35
Hively, Mary Kay	80
Hively, Michael J.	36
Hively, Miriam	35
Hively, Sue	80
Hively, Thomas	80
Hively, Thomas A.	35
Hively, William	80
Hockert, Beth Ann	84
Hockert, Brad	84
Hockert, Candace	85
Hockert, David Hugh	84
Hockert, Fred	84
Hockert, Hubert H.	84
Hockert, J. Richard	85
Hockert, John William	85
Hockert, Lynlee	85
Hockert, Steven	85
Hockert, Tad	85
Hollopeter, Andrew	65, 66
Hollopeter, Andrew [M.G.]	43
Holston, Doyle	85
Holston, Lurla	85
Holston, Maurice	85
Holt, Charlie	20, 22, 27
Holt, Harriet (Hattie)	26
Holt, Hattie	24
Holt, John	20, 26, 27, 40
Holt, Luella (Ella)	26
Holt, Mary	26
Holt, Oscar	20, 27
Holt, Paul	26
Holt, Udelmor	20
Holt, Udelmor S.	27
Holz, Catherine	87

NAME	PAGE
Homas, William S.	35
Hore, Joseph Kenneth [Jr.]	83
Houston, Dick	85
Hull, S. J.	33
Hunter, Ruby	84
Ivins, Ina [Mrs.]	76
Jackman, Elizabeth May	87
Jackman, Marion M.	87
Jackman, Mary Elizabeth	87
Jackman, Miles Thomas	87
Jackman, Richard Clare	87
Jackson, David Howard	81
Jackson, John Howard	81
Jackson, Lotta Ruth Schiller	88
Jackson, Mickeael Howard	81
Jeffries, Adam	62
Jensen, Judith Ann	82
Jensen, Robert Sidney	82
Johnson, Elizabeth	30, 61, 62
Jones, Thomas Griffith	6
Kelley, Birdella	65, 68
Kelley, Birdella Buchholz	76, 78
Kelley, Loyce Biradelle	1
Kelly, Birdie	48
Kelly, Loyce Dryden	78
Kemp, Edward	62
Keyes, Tulman	22
Kimbal, Kennie Tywn	87
Kimbal, Robert	87
Kimble, Dick William	87
Kirby-Smith, Edmund [General]	44
Kleber, Julie Ann	81
Kleber, Sandra Jean	81
Kuenzi, Elizabeth	37
Kuenzi, Elizabeth (Bess)	83
Lamb, William	26
Lane, Jo [General]	41
Latcher, Theron M.	62
Lawrence, Cyrus O.	22
Leffel, Zora T.	26
Lewis, Ada	62
Lilly, J. W. [Elder]	20
Lilngafelt, James P.	46
Lilvengood, Martha A.	75

NAME	PAGE
Lime, Charles	82
Lime, Charlie	59
Lime, Ellen Jean	82
Lime, Kathryn	90
Lime, Kathryn Alma	82
Lime, Ruth Elizabeth	82
Lindsly, Esther A.	62
Lindsly, Esther Ann	62
Lingafelt, Deborah	46
Lingafelt, Elizabeth	46, 67
Lingafelt, Louisa	46
Lingafelt, Rachel	43, 44, 45, 46, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70
Lingafelt, William	68
Livengood, Abram	50, 80
Livengood, Albert (Bud)	75, 76
Livengood, Alma	90
Livengood, Alma Jane	37, 75, 80
Livengood, Ann	75
Livengood, Annice V.	75
Livengood, Arthur F.	75
Livengood, Becca	58
Livengood, Charles E.	75
Livengood, Chester	76
Livengood, Christopher	75
Livengood, Clem	58, 75
Livengood, Edd	58
Livengood, Edith	76
Livengood, Ethel	76
Livengood, Eva	75
Livengood, Frederick P.	76
Livengood, Fredrick P.	75
Livengood, Ina	76
Livengood, Ira	75
Livengood, Isaac	75
Livengood, Joe	58
Livengood, Joseph	75
Livengood, Katherine	75
Livengood, Lavina	58
Livengood, Martha A.	76
Livengood, Mary	50, 75, 80
Livengood, Mary Edith	75
Livengood, May	58

NAME	PAGE
Livengood, Melvin [Reverend][Dr.]	76
Livengood, Pearl	58
Livengood, Rebecca E.	75
Livengood, Robert	75
Livengood, Ruth	76
Livengood, William F.	75, 76
Livergood, Abram	75
Livergood, Bert	53
Livergood, Cora	53
Livergood, Florence	53
Livergood, Martha	53
Livergood, Mary	53
Livergood, Will	53
Locey, Clinton W.	10
Locey, John	12
Locey, John M.	10
Locey/Locy, John M.	10
Lockwood, Mary	78
Locy, Celia A.	12
Locy, Clinton	6
Locy, Clinton W.	12
Locy, John M.	6, 12
Locy, Locey, John M.	10
Lonas, Eva	58
Manley, Minerva M.	23
Marshall, Bonnie Jay	87
Marshall, Joanne	87
Marshall, Paul	87
Marshall, Timothy	87
Marshall, William W.	87
Mayes, Charles B.	83
Mayes, Charles Buell [Jr.]	83
Mayes, Cherry Jean	83
Mayes, Nancy Carroll	83
McAdams, Barbara	84
McAdams, Mary Ann	84
McAdams, Walter	84
McClain, Debbie	84
McClain, Marvin	84
McClain, Mike	84
McClelland, Elsie May	83
McCormick, Florence Mary	39
McLaughlin, Brian	83
McLaughlin, G. [Dr.]	83

NAME	PAGE
McLaughlin, Michael	83
McLaughlin, Sheila	83
Method, Kathryn	65
Michtell, Barbara Ann	87
Mischler, Jeanee	85
Mitchel, Cathy	85
Mitchem, Bob	84
Mitchem, Katrina Marie	84
Monlux, George	23
Monlux, Minerva M.	23
Morgan, Jacqueline Sue	81
Morr, Catherine	64, 68
Mulanax, Alma Katherine Schiller	88
Mulanax, Alvin Edgar	81
Mulanax, Katherine	34
Mulanax, Roger Louis	81
Mulanaz, Roger	88
Munn, John [Capt.]	76
Naylor, Charles Robert	84
Naylor, Francis	84
Naylor, Gregory	84
Neil, S. G. [Reverend]	20
Nelson, William [General]	44
Neville, Frances	75
Newcomer, Richard	63, 68, 71, 73
Noffisinger, Katherine	75
Notestines,	30
Nzaworthy, Harold	82
Nzaworthy, Jean Lime	89
Ogden, David	82
Opilnger, Daniel	62
Osborn, Justine A.	62
Oster, Lucile	85
Paddleford, Anne	83
Paff, Aaron Ray	87
Paff, Adam Dean	87
Paff, Alfred	39, 87
Paff, Andrew Dana	87
Paff, Arden Winfield	87
Paff, Cathie Marie	87
Paff, Dana Winfield	39, 87
Paff, Dorothy	76
Paff, Dorothy May	39, 87

NAME	PAGE
Paff, Edna	80
Paff, Edna Lottie	38, 85
Paff, Edwin E.	38, 85
Paff, Edwin Lee	88
Paff, Ellsworth D.	39
Paff, Ellsworth Daniel	38, 5, 87
Paff, Joyce Lenore	87
Paff, Karen Lianne	87
Paff, Lottie	80
Paff, Lyell Duane	87
Paff, Lyell E.	32, 38
Paff, Marjorie Alice	87
Paff, Marjory	87
Paff, Mary Marjory	39
Paff, Michael Damon	87
Paff, Orla Ray	87
Paff, Rosamond	38
Paff, Sharon Kay	87
Paff, Shirley May	87
Paff, Ted	80
Paff, Wilfred Earnest	39, 87
Papul, Linette	43
Parke, (family)	51
Parke, Emma	51
Paulsen, Dan Flowler	82
Paulsen, Gil Fowler	82
Paulsen, Kelley Joel	82
Payton, Francis Maxine	82
Payton, Frank	42
Payton, Frank (W. Frank)	27
Payton, Inez	28
Payton, Maude	27
Perg, Paul [Father]	90
Perkins, Casandra	61, 62
Petit, Granderson	62
Pfalser, Viragie Viola	81
Poe, Nelson	7, 34
Poetter, Joshua	62
Poltersdorf, Carol Thomas	69
Poltersdorf, Carol Thomas White	69
Pontius, Edgar	53, 76
Pontius, Edith	76
Pontius, Helen	76
Pontius, Howard	76

NAME	PAGE
Pontius, Lowell	76
Pontius, Martha	53
Potter, Jane Elizabeth	83
Potter, Allen R.	83
Potter, Charles	62
Potter, Clyde	62, 74
Potter, Clyde DeFay	37, 83
Potter, DeFay	62, 74
Potter, Dwight	62
Potter, Edna Thomasella	74
Potter, Edna Thomaselle	37, 62, 83
Potter, Ellen	62
Potter, Elva Jane	37, 62, 74, 83
Potter, Ephriam [Mrs.]	61
Potter, Frank	62
Potter, Helen Fay	83
Potter, Jane	62
Potter, John Martin	83
Potter, Joshua	62, 74
Potter, Laura	26, 37, 62, 74, 83
Potter, Louis DeFay	37, 83
Potter, Luther DeWitt	37, 62, 74
Potter, Luther Dewitt	83
Potter, Martin Luther	83
Potter, Ruth Anne	83
Potter, Vida Estelle	37, 62, 74, 83
Pray, Alex	24
Pray, Bertha	24
Pray, Elmer	24
Pray, Enoch	24
Pray, Ethel	24
Pray, Frank	24
Pray, Frankin	24
Pray, George	24
Pray, Lee	24
Pray, Marie	24
Pray, Marion	24
Pray, Maude	24
Pray, Olive	24
Price, Della	73
Price, Ed	69
Prouse, Alvin Samuel	81

NAME	PAGE
Prouse, Frances	89
Prouse, Thomas Alvin	81, 82, 89
Prouse, Vickie	89
Prouse, Vickie Helen	82
Prouse, Winifred May	81, 82
Reynolds, Almon	62
Richmond, Jeanette	84
Rife, Doris	75
Rife, Fred	58, 75
Rife, John	75
Rife, Margaret	75
Rife, Mary	75
Rife, Tillie	75
Robbins, William	61, 62
Roberts, C. B.	28
Roberts, Clarence	27
Rosco, Celia Clark	80
Rosco, Nelson	35
Roscoe, Celia E. Clark	35
Rosecrans, William S. [General]	44
Russel, Alice A.	10
Sabin, Francis	59
Schermerhorn, W. D. [Dr.]	59
Schiller, Alma Katherine	81, 88
Schiller, Bill	88
Schiller, Francis Thomas	81, 88
Schiller, Frank	57
Schiller, Frank William	81
Schiller, Frankie	88
Schiller, Jackie	88
Schiller, Lotta Ruth	81, 88
Schiller, Ruth	88
Schiller, Skip	88
Schiller, Thomas Clifford (Skip)	81
Schlicher, Julia Louises	69
Schlierve, Ethel Minna	69
Scot, Charles	16
Shciller, William Richard	81
Shippey, Charlotte	28, 32, 33, 34, 79
Shippey, Drusilla	29, 36, 79
Shippy, Anna Elizabeth	32
Sicks, Clarence E.	84

NAME	PAGE
Sicks, Hazel	80
Sittler, Elizabeth	84
Sittler, Eva Joan	84
Sittler, Larsh	84
Sittler, Mary Lou	84
Sittler, Patricia Gail	84
Smith, Sarah Louise	87
Somerlott, Andrew	3
Somerlott, Dale	3
Somerlott, Elizabeth	3
Somerlott, Franklin	3
Somerlott, George	3
Somerlott, John	3
Somerlott, Jonas	3
Somerlott, Mary Ann	3, 20
Somerlott, Mary R.	3
Somerlott, Sarah	3
Somerlott, Sebastian	3, 20
Somerlott, Valentine	3
Spackey, Cordelia C.	11
Spackey, Ida R.	11
Spackey, Philip	11, 12, 14
Spakey, Howard	8
Speakiman, Tom	83
Speakman, --------	62
Spillane, Harold	65, 73, 74
Spotts, Nick	84
Stafford, Anna	68
Stafford, Bertha	64
Stafford, Catherine	71
Stafford, Catherine Morr	64
Stafford, Cora D.	65, 71
Stafford, Cora Delta	64, 70
Stafford, Effie	64
Stafford, James	68
Stafford, James M.	64
Stafford, John	64, 68, 71
Stafford, Mary M.	64
Stankey, Lora Ann	69
Steele, [Mr.]	79
Stump, Linda	84
Surfus, Pete	78
Thomas, Frank P.	41
Thomas, Irving	81
Thomas, Myranda	37

NAME	PAGE
Thomas, A.	22
Thomas, A.	42
Thomas, A. E.	12
Thomas, Adele	70
Thomas, Agnes	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 78
Thomas, Agness	12
Thomas, Albert D.	66
Thomas, Albert Delmar	15, 21
Thomas, Albert Hugh	78
Thomas, Alma	37
Thomas, Alta	64, 65
Thomas, Alton	80
Thomas, Amanda Ann	78
Thomas, Amanda Jane	70
Thomas, Angeline	16, 17, 26, 77
Thomas, Ann	50, 76
Thomas, Ann P.	12
Thomas, Anna	53
Thomas, Anna Wade	6
Thomas, Anne	12, 13, 14, 23
Thomas, Anne Wade	34
Thomas, Annis	78
Thomas, Asenath Samantha	78
Thomas, Avis E.	7, 12
Thomas, Barbara	80
Thomas, Bernice	54
Thomas, Bernice Elizabeth	38, 83
Thomas, Bess	54
Thomas, Boyd	78
Thomas, Boyd Lawrence	26
Thomas, C. M.	9
Thomas, Carol	69
Thomas, Celia	1, 14

NAME	PAGE
Thomas, Celia A.	10
Thomas, Charles	26
Thomas, Charles Austin	64, 69
Thomas, Charles E.	34, 38
Thomas, Charles Fletcher	24
Thomas, Charles N.	15, 76
Thomas, Charles Nelson	78
Thomas, Charlotte	31
Thomas, Charlotte (Lottie)	38
Thomas, Charolotte (Shippey)	33
Thomas, Chas.	73
Thomas, Christopher	50
Thomas, Clarence	31, 37, 80
Thomas, Clarence F.	38
Thomas, Clarence Fremont	38, 83, 84
Thomas, Clarence Riley	31, 38, 79
Thomas, Clemenza	16, 17, 20, 26, 77
Thomas, Clyde Earl (Dr.)	24
Thomas, Cora	74
Thomas, Cora A.	73
Thomas, Cordelia C.	11, 13, 14
Thomas, Cyrus	13
Thomas, Cyrus M.	6, 8, 9, 12
Thomas, David	3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 30, 31, 53, 79, 80
Thomas, Delta	64, 69
Thomas, DeWit Corwin	80
Thomas, DeWitt	54
Thomas, DeWitt Corwin	37, 59, 81
Thomas, Doriel	63
Thomas, Dorothy	81
Thomas, Dorothy Mary	88
Thomas, Druscilla Shippey	30
Thomas, Drusilla	28, 34
Thomas, Drusilla Shippey	34
Thomas, E.	34
Thomas, E. [Mrs.]	12
Thomas, E. W.	12
Thomas, Edith May	37, 80, 81
Thomas, Edmond	76, 77
Thomas, Edward	69
Thomas, Edward William	64, 69
Thomas, Elizabeth	6, 10,12,

NAME	PAGE
	13, 14, 16, 19, 21,22, 23, 24, 42, 43, 77
Thomas, Elizabeth (Beacom)	40
Thomas, Elizabeth Corenzie Comenza Euphema	24
Thomas, Elizabeth J.	69
Thomas, Ellen	30, 78
Thomas, Emma	31
Thomas, Emma E.	14
Thomas, Emma Victoria	31, 38, 79, 85
Thomas, Enoch	15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 42, 77
Thomas, Enos	8, 13, 78
Thomas, Enos W.	7, 12
Thomas, Estella	31, 37
Thomas, Estella Elizabeth	31, 79, 84
Thomas, Estella Elizabeth (Stella)	38
Thomas, Esther	37, 80
Thomas, Ethel	15, 21, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 47, 48, 71, 73, 77, 78, 79, 80
Thomas, Ethel Estella	80
Thomas, Ethel Schlierve	69
Thomas, Eunice E.	13
Thomas, Eunice Eliza	11
Thomas, Evelyn	31
Thomas, Evelyn Mary	31, 39, 87
Thomas, Evelyn May	79
Thomas, Fletcher	14, 15, 17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 42, 77, 78
Thomas, Fletcher [Rev.]	14, 20
Thomas, Fletcher [Reverand][Mr.]	25
Thomas, Fletcher [Reverend]	76
Thomas, Florence Lavantia	37, 80

NAME	PAGE
Thomas, Forest	64, 70
Thomas, Frank Payton	25
Thomas, Fremont	31, 54, 79
Thomas, Fremont J.	83
Thomas, Fremont Jonathan	31, 37
Thomas, Frost	79
Thomas, Frost B.	35, 80
Thomas, Gard	33
Thomas, Gard Clarence	39, 87
Thomas, Genevieve Clarissa	84
Thomas, George H. [General]	45
Thomas, Gladys Marie	81, 88
Thomas, Glarence R. [Jr.]	84
Thomas, Grace A. (Goodwin)	72
Thomas, Grace Lillian	39, 87
Thomas, Hannah	43, 63, 66
Thomas, Hannah E.	64
Thomas, Hannah Matilda	78
Thomas, Harriet R.	78
Thomas, Helen Meriam	87
Thomas, Henrietta	16,22
Thomas, Henrietta	27, 41, 77
Thomas, Hiram	63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70
Thomas, Hiram W.	9, 32, 43, 44, 45, 46, 67, 78
Thomas, Howard	43, 64, 65, 71, 72, 73, 78
Thomas, Howard G.	70, 73
Thomas, Hugh	14, 15, 31, 43, 46, 64, 77, 78
Thomas, Ira	50
Thomas, Irving	37, 80
Thomas, Isaac	50
Thomas, James	30, 31, 79, 80
Thomas, James G.	28, 36
Thomas, James Leslie	78
Thomas, Jennie	50
Thomas, Jennie (Orilla)	31
Thomas, Joe	50

NAME	PAGE
Thomas, John	13
Thomas, John B.	8, 12
Thomas, John Dale	15,24
Thomas, John Fletcher	16
Thomas, John Hiram	69
Thomas, John Thomas	25
Thomas, John W.	22, 40, 42
Thomas, John Wesley	8, 16, 17, 19, 24, 25, 27, 77
Thomas, Jonathan	3, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 40, 76, 77, 78
Thomas, Jonathan [Rev.]	42
Thomas, Jonathan [Reverend]	18, 22, 23
Thomas, Jonathan P.	41
Thomas, Jonathan Park	25
Thomas, Jonathan Russell Bigelow	16, 27
Thomas, Joseph	76
Thomas, Katherine	69
Thomas, L.	22
Thomas, L.	42
Thomas, Lanie	80
Thomas, Leverton	3, 15, 20, 34, 76, 77
Thomas, Lillian Lucile	87
Thomas, Liverton	4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 28, 77, 78
Thomas, Liverton Dixon	78
Thomas, Lora	69
Thomas, Lora A.	69
Thomas, Lotta Alma	37, 80, 82
Thomas, Lottie	50, 79, 85
Thomas, Luemma	29, 30, 31, 36, 79
Thomas, Lydia	76
Thomas, Mamie	80
Thomas, Maria	7, 13, 14
Thomas, Maria (Marie)	7
Thomas, Marie	6, 12, 70

NAME	PAGE
Thomas, Marie Julia	81
Thomas, Marion	69
Thomas, Martha	3, 4, 77
Thomas, Mary	3, 12, 13, 20, 31, 32, 38, 76, 77
Thomas, Mary (Ann)	3
Thomas, Mary (Colwell)	76
Thomas, Mary Jane Brown	26
Thomas, Mary Julia	37, 80
Thomas, Michael	7, 12, 15, 16, 19, 21, 30, 31, 33, 36, 37, 40, 51, 62, 76, 77, 78, 80
Thomas, Michael [Jr.]	3, 14, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34
Thomas, Michael [Jr.]	33, 34
Thomas, Michael [Jr.][Reverend]	34
Thomas, Michael [Reverend]	79
Thomas, Michael [Sr.]	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39
Thomas, Michael C.	37
Thomas, Michael Corwin	31, 37, 79
Thomas, Minerva	24
Thomas, Miranda	32
Thomas, Miriam	79
Thomas, Mirian (Mamie)	35
Thomas, Mirriam	35
Thomas, Myranda	31, 38
Thomas, Nancy	31, 50, 80
Thomas, Nancy Julia	37
Thomas, Noah Willis	10

NAME	PAGE
Thomas, O. Jennie	62, 74, 79
Thomas, Orilla	31
Thomas, Orilla Jennie	31, 37, 83
Thomas, Patricia	72
Thomas, Paula	79
Thomas, Paula B.	35
Thomas, Pheba	13
Thomas, Pheba J.	12
Thomas, Rachel	71
Thomas, Rebecca	76
Thomas, Rebecca (Lockwood)	76
Thomas, Ruby	38
Thomas, Ruth Elizabeth	37, 80
Thomas, Ruth Florence	39
Thomas, Ruth Leone	87
Thomas, S. Mark	22
Thomas, Salathiel Mark	16, 17, 22, 25, 77
Thomas, Samantha Sarah	78
Thomas, Sarah	78
Thomas, Silvia Anne	87
Thomas, Stafford	69
Thomas, Thaddeus W.	41
Thomas, Thaddeus Worth	25
Thomas, Tina	7, 12
Thomas, Tina A.	12
Thomas, Urseba	24
Thomas, Vivian	69
Thomas, W.	34
Thomas, W. David	28, 33, 34
Thomas, W. M.	73
Thomas, Wayne	72
Thomas, Will [Mrs.]	69
Thomas, Willhugh	64, 65
Thomas, William	12, 13, 31, 63, 76, 79
Thomas, William Edward	64, 69
Thomas, William H.	22, 42, 74
Thomas, William Henry	16, 27, 77
Thomas, William Hugh	43, 64, 70, 71
Thomas, William S.	31, 32
Thomas, William Swayze	28, 35, 80
Thomas, Willliam	30

NAME	PAGE
Thomas, Zo	25
Thomas, Zoe	41
Thomas. Hugh	3
Thompson, Helen Lois	83
Thoms, Cyrus M.	67
Thoms, Hiram W.	45
Thoms, Jonathan P.	72
Thoms, Michael Corwin	80
Tibbals, Howard [Mrs.]	71
Tibbals, Hward B.	72
Tibbals, Ruth T.	72
Triswold, Harriet	62
Underhill, Cyrus	51
Underhill, Sally	51
Wade, Anne	6
Wade, George	7, 8, 14
Wade, George Washington (Washie)	8
Wade, Helen Poe	34
Wade, John	8
Wade, Lelah	4
Wade, Minnie	8, 12
Wade, Wash	8, 12
Wagner, Clyde Lasalle	27
Wagner, Clyde LaSalle (Dr.)	21
Wagner, Edwin Russell	27
Wagner, Eldon Matt	27
Wagner, J. Howard	25, 26, 28
Wagner, Johnathan Howard	15, 20, 23, 24, 27
Wagner, Jonathan H.	66
Wagner, Simon Peter	27
Walker, Carol Jean	82
Walker, Duane E.	82
Walker, Kathryn Suzanne	82
Walker, Richard Lee	82
Walker, Ronald	89
Walker, Ronald Duane	82
Walker, Ronald Duane [Jr.]	82
Wanasek, [Mr.][Mrs.]	56
Washington, Booker T.	56
Watson, Ella M.	59
Webb, George	62
Webber, June	84
Weinhold, Abiram	51

NAME	PAGE
Welker, Frank T.	26
Wells, Michele	82
Wesley, John	18
Whaley, Charles Madison	83
Whaley, Mary Jacqueline	83
White, [Mr.]	51
White, Carol Thomas	69
Whittig, Leonard	76
Whittig, Mary	75
Wilbur, Mary E.	24
Williams, Hannah	78
Winthrop, Edward	24
Wire, Mary Olive	26
Wolcott, Fanny	37
Wolcott, Herbert	37
Wolcott, Herbert (Bart)	37
Wolcott, Herbert E.	37
Wolcott, Luther	37
Wolcott, Luther C.	36
Woodward, Alva	85
Woodward, Geraldine LaVonne	81
Woodward, Howard	81
Woodward, Malcolm Howard	81
Work, [Dr.]	53
Wyatt, Blanch Pearl	68
Wyatt, Charles W.	68
Wyatt, Ida Alice	68
Wyatt, William Oscar	68
Wyattt, Daniel	68
Wynn, Marcella	84
Zaninger, Daisy	56
Zeller, Ida	63

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